

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 21 – NO. 13

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

## Public Health Director Search Finds a Qualified Pick Abroad

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – The search process for a new public health director in Montague, after several frustrating twists and turns over



ZOOM IMAGE

The town plans to apply for a visa to bring Candaicy David to the US from Turks and Caicos.

the past three and a half months, has finally produced a candidate approved with much enthusiasm by the town board of health and the selectboard at its Monday night meeting.

Candaicy David, who has worked as an environmental health officer for 16 years on an island archipelago just east of the Caribbean, was said to have an “extraordinary background in public health” by health board member Michael Nelson.

Nelson noted David’s experience in “housing and restaurant inspections, hurricane preparedness, septic, wells, wastewater, [and] public health education.” He said former health director and current acting director Gina McNeely was also “extremely pleased with her qualifications,” which are perhaps “exceeding the qualifications of most health officials in our region.”

Nelson also said that David’s “demeanor, see **DIRECTOR** page A3

### ERVING SELECTBOARD

## New Expenses at Elementary School Push Erving Budget Over the Limit

By KEITH WATERS

On February 13 the Erving selectboard held a joint meeting with the finance committee to further discuss FY’24 budget requests, and to iron out the warrant for the special town meeting (STM) which will be held on March 6. Significant new costs, associated with out-of-district special education placements Erving Elementary School must cover, are on the table both this year and next.

The special town meeting will be asked to approve money needed for this year that was not in the budget. The selectboard is asking for about \$474,000, spread across seven articles.

One is for \$125,000 for inventorying lead in the town’s water pipes, newly required by the state. That money would be in the form of a loan which may be forgiven after the work is done. Another \$36,000 is for other unexpected water- and wastewater-related

see **ERVING** page A7

### G-M REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Large ‘Unknowns,’ Short Timeline

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – Pipes burst at both Gill Elementary and Turners Falls High School during the cold snap, superintendent Brian Beck told the regional school committee Tuesday. Beck praised district staff for responding quickly. Disruption was minimal, though first-graders were relocated for two days.

residents, but Department of Public Health data still reported the town had “zero” cases. “It was really clear that that’s no longer a reliable resource for us to look at,” he said. The Centers for Disease Control, which use wastewater testing data, rated the county at “low” risk as of Monday.

A high school trip to Paris and Rome, postponed last year over worries that students could be held in foreign quarantine, is on for March 10 through 17. Ten adults and 22 students are signed up. The Travel Club is open to students who have taken two years

see **GMRSD** page A7

Beck also reported that Gill Elementary had seen enough COVID-19 cases that health officials decided to encourage students and adults to wear masks and take home tests.

He noted that some of the cases were Gill

## STREET SCENES



MAGGIE SABOWAY PHOTO

Heads turned and traffic slowed last Friday as over 25 people joined Great Falls Discovery Center park interpreter Matt Paul on an hour-long walk in downtown Turners Falls. The “Nice and Easy Walks: Crossroads Edition,” exploring local history, will continue from 1 to 2 p.m. Fridays through March 17.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Millers Falls got a taste of Hollywood on Wednesday as a crew led by writer-director Steven Grayhm, who filmed much of his previous The Secret of Sinschance locally in 2020, took over the Millers Pnb for work on his next project, Sheepdog. “A therapy-averse combat veteran is court ordered into treatment after his plan to unite an ex-con and his daughter shows him that he must put himself back together first,” reads the movie’s synopsis on IMDB.com. Montague and Greenfield granted Sheepdog the Movie, LLC permission to film in a number of locations between now and March 9.

### GILL SELECTBOARD

## Town Hall Floods; Staff Soldiers On

By KATE SAVAGE

“That’s the culprit there, if you want to pass it around and see what a tiny little hole can do,” said town administrator Ray Purington at Monday’s Gill selectboard meeting, displaying a section of heating pipe with a small tear in the metal. The pipe was from the town clerk’s office inside the historic

town hall building, and had burst during the early February cold snap.

The flood hit several rooms on the first floor, including offices of the town clerk, treasurer, and town administrator, before pooling in the basement, where it soaked the assessor’s office and a hallway.

Some files were damaged, but Purington see **GILL** page A4

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Public Brainstorming Planned for Remaking Village After the Farren

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE CITY** – The historic Farren hospital is scheduled to be demolished this spring, after several years of controversy, and the town of Montague is already looking ahead to a planning process that it hopes will transform the vacated land and surrounding streets into a “village center.”

New town planner Maureen Pollock came before the Montague selectboard Monday

evening with a map of the targeted area – essentially the Farren property and the area around Masonic Avenue and Rod Shop Road – as well as an update on the planning process, and a memorandum of understanding with a quasi-public agency called the Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP) which is financing technical assistance for the plan.

Pollock began by reviewing the history of the grant. She said assistant town administrator see **MONTAGUE** page A5

## GET TO THE NET



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls senior JJ Charles drives to the hoop as Mount Greylock’s Chase Doyle leaps in to defend during last Thursday’s Senior Night game at Turners. See Page A8 for more high school sports!

### Ye Olde Skimpy Winter Doldrums Edition

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A Beloved National Toast.....B1	Three Comics.....B5





# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## Derailments

One hundred fifty train cars, 18,000 tons, a mile and three-quarters long, propelled by three locomotives, one in the middle. That's an awful lot. We don't yet know how fast the train that derailed in a small Ohio town was traveling, but if it was sticking to the legal 40 mph, it carried about 2.6 megajoules of impact energy, one and a quarter Tomahawk cruise missiles.

At any moment trains are moving nearly a third of our country's freight, and they're preferable to the alternatives in many ways. But in any system of rail's sheer scale, attention to safety is crucial, from the bottom rungs of the workplace to the halls of highest power.

Railroads employed 1.5 million American workers in 1947, and today they employ 177,747. Part of that is an overall reduction in rail's import, but compared to 1947, the industry is making 57% of the rev-

enue, riding on 62% of the route-miles, with 11% of the workers.

We didn't listen to those exhausted workers when they sounded the alarm last fall, and now look.

Fifty cars, 41 carrying hazardous chemicals, might not have derailed if that train had electronically controlled pneumatic brakes. Unfortunately its owner, Norfolk Southern, helped successfully lobby against that rule in 2017, according to reporting by *The Lever*. At the same time it was firing thousands of workers – and spending billions of dollars on stock buybacks.

It may be months or years before we can know the full impact of this company's decision to burn off five tankers' worth of vinyl chloride, or of the other dozen-plus chemicals it spilled. But by then, *none of us will remember that it happened*. It's just part of life. The system gets back on its tracks, and keeps moving.

## Four Homes Closing

As you may know, four nursing homes in Chicopee, Westfield, and Springfield are listed to close. Our legislators are aware of this issue, and the Department of Public Health is also involved.

But I can only guess as to the total number of patients needing relocation. 500 total? How many jobs will be lost?

Nursing homes are often the place to recover after surgery, or for long-term care of patients. Many need this care after surgery from Greenfield and Springfield hospitals. There are currently waitlists at many nursing homes, and these closures will only severely highlight an ongoing medical crisis.

We can expect our local nursing homes in Greenfield, etc. will have difficulty to accommodate us after severe surgery, as the many, many patients from these closed settings will add to the burden and compe-

titution for a bed.

We as family members often do not have the medical knowledge to keep our loved ones in our home settings. This is a huge strain on families as to the care and protection of our loved ones. Home care agencies lack staff, and insurance companies do not pay for round-the-clock care in one's home. Many agency group homes are not designed for severe medical needs.

This also places a burden on many hospitals, requiring patients to stay longer if an opening in a nursing home is not available. Thus the logjam of care continues. These closures are severely impacting the health and welfare of so many patients, medical staff, and families – a severe crisis in care.

Sincerely,

**Betty Tegel**  
Turners Falls

## Hospital Volunteers

There is something troubling about being troubled by volunteering for a hospital. The visible site of the main source of personal bankruptcy. Of course a hospital is a good place to volunteer. Embodiment of the healing spirit. So many people living in pain, not going to the hospital, afraid of the cost of health care. The few at the top,

where the money trickles from, or to, rolling in riches, not approving the raises asked for by those who enable the healing work.

Kind of a "kill them with kindness" or "turn the other cheek" kind of thing. Gods bless us all.

**Keith Waters**  
Orange



Amanda Raleigh moved to the area a year and a half ago and works at LOOT, an industrial antique and craft shop in Turners Falls. She has a degree in performance art, and on a recent afternoon she stepped right up to wave a few signal flags in the shop for this illustration.

## Letters to the Editors

### Responds to Skateboarder

First of all, I apologize for offending you in any way with my original Letter to the Editor. I could not have written what was really uttered.

The original topic was meant to be about the people traversing Turners Falls/ Greenfield Road over the Canada Hill section of Greenfield. You have the perfect right to travel however and wherever you please, irregardless of the Massachusetts Rules of the Road. I have read them several times in these past weeks.

Now, as for people fearing to walk facing the traffic, as for skateboarders doing same (be careful),

the law is the law even though the PDs don't enforce. *But*, the tragic end result of one of these people getting hit is always the same... Driver of Vehicle is at fault.

And, with the new laws of January 2023, motor vehicles have even more to worry about, and pedestrians/skateboarders/horses/bicyclists have more ways of commanding the paved roadways.

Agreed that this byway needs review for the safety of all travelers. Lights, sidewalk – all the way up on the same side – bike lanes on both sides, whatever is needed.

Hopefully they line up the sidewalk with the new bridge design. Nevermind that cluster in Turners by the canal, made worse by the rumored design of the other bridges to and from "the Patch."

Again, I do apologize for offending you, and if any of this offends you, let me pre-apologize. *Besides*, I am under the assumption that this roadway will be closed shortly while the repairs/replacement of those bridges are done.

**R. P. Knox**  
The Patch, Montague

## Local Org Seeks Next Leader

Here's a gem of an opportunity for the right person: The Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls is hiring a full-time Executive Director!

Could this be you? Could it be someone you know? For those who need an intro (or just a refresher), the Brick House is located in the center of downtown Turners Falls. Incorporated in 1993, this non-profit provides a range of services for families and youth – from homework help, to youth programming in the form of out-of-school-time activities, to caregiver support groups and assistance for families navigating social services, to coffee hour for parents and guardians.

It's been a number of years since the Brick House has had the budget for a full-time executive director. Through careful stewardship by the Brick House board and staff, the organization has reached this exciting moment – and they have begun the search for the person who will carry the mission forward and nurture this wonderful local organization into new growth and possibility.

It seems a good shot that a great-fit executive director for the Brick House will come from somewhere in the connections of this newspaper's readership,

or perhaps from a network once or twice removed. We need *your* help to get the word out about this position – an amazing opportunity for someone who will thrive doing important, impactful work in the heart of our community.

If you care about the Brick House and want to support the mission, please take a few minutes to scroll through your contact list with an eye toward folks who might be interested in taking this leap. Maybe you know someone who is at the right moment for a fulfilling turn in their career, or a talented individual who needs just the right excuse to move to the Pioneer Valley?

The application period closes on February 24; candidates should submit a resume and cover letter by that date. Detailed information about the position and application instructions can be found online at [www.brickhousecommunity.org/edsearch/](http://www.brickhousecommunity.org/edsearch/).

Thank you in advance for your help in spreading the word!

**Haley Anderson**  
Turners Falls  
Member, Brick House ED Search Committee

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

There are two events related to the ongoing Smithsonian exhibit *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* this weekend.

On Saturday, February 18 the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage at 2 Mead Street in Greenfield will host **“Franklin County Industrialization,”** a talk by museum president Jim Terapane, from 1 to 3 p.m. He will discuss the types of industries created before, during, and after the industrialization of the Turners Falls canal, and cover the history of industry along our waterways.

On Sunday, February 19 at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls there will be a reception for the exhibit **“Montague at Work and Play: Illustrations from the Montague Reporter”** from 4 to 6 p.m. There are 52 illustrations in the show depicting scenes of daily life in our five villages. Managing editor Mike Jackson and I will be there, and we hope you will stop by and help celebrate this feature of the paper, which I began back in 2016.

This microcosm of contemporary life will become part of the Montague Historical Society’s collection after it comes down on March 18. You may also order prints of any of the portraits in the show for \$20, with proceeds going to this newspaper. Hope to see you there!

Also this Sunday, February 19, the Northfield Mount Hermon Instrumental Ensembles will host their **19th benefit concert for Life-Path**, a nonprofit agency on aging, at 3 p.m. in the Rhodes Arts Center on the beautiful Gill campus.

The concert will present “Winds

of Celebration” by Tyler Grant, a Sousa march, and “Chester” by William Billings. The strings of the orchestra will play the first movement of Tchaikovsky’s famous “String Serenade,” and a new composition called “Testimony” by African American composer Charleton Singleton. They will present a medley of music from The Lion King, plus swing and Latin jazz selections, including Duke Ellington’s “Take the A Train” and Herbie Hancock’s “Cantaloupe Island.”

**GUEST BRIEF!**

The **Great Falls Farmers Market** is excited to announce that we’re moving... to Saturdays!

Starting in May, the market will now run every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Peskeomskut Park. Stay tuned for more exciting developments as planning gets underway. Please reach out at [greatfallsfarmersmarketturners@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallsfarmersmarketturners@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming a vendor!

The Brick House Community Resource Center’s parent and family program is hosting a **Family Game Night** next Tuesday, February 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. This is for families with kids of all ages – kids must be accompanied by an adult – and includes dinner. Everything is free, and the fun all happens at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

For questions, please contact John at [jcamerota@brickhousecrc.org](mailto:jcamerota@brickhousecrc.org) or (586) 335-9693.

Come out for poetry and spoken word at the **Third Tuesday open mic** with Paul Richmond at the LAVA

Center in Greenfield next Tuesday, February 21. You can sign up for a five-minute spot at 7 p.m.; the open mic begins at 7:20. This month’s featured readers, Jody Stewart and Doug Anderson, begin at 8:30 p.m.

Next Friday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m., the movie *Revolution Selfie: The Red Battalion* will be screened at the Brick House in Turners Falls, with a discussion afterward with the director. The event is free.

According to the description, “Filmmaker Steven De Castro paints a portrait of a 54-year-old Maoist **guerilla army in the Philippine hinterlands...** this film weaves fantasy elements and web-based camera techniques into the documentary form to disrupt our widely held beliefs underpinning the discussion of terrorism, poverty, and the motivations of the warriors who fight in a peasant revolution.”

**Children’s book author** Astrid Sheckels, meanwhile, will read from her latest picture book, *Hector Fox and the Daring Flight*, at the Montague Center Library at 11 a.m. next Friday, February 24. She will also do a drawing demonstration.

Enjoy a **roast pork supper** on Saturday, February 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Montague Congregational Church. The menu includes roast pork and gravy, spiced apples, potatoes, butternut squash, quick bread, and carrot cake. You may eat in (\$15) or take out (\$17), but reservations are necessary. Call (413) 367-2652 by next Thursday.

The **Montague cemetery commission** is looking to add to their number. The commission has been quite active lately, since the town acquired the Highland Cemetery and has been developing green burial spaces there. Tasks that members take on include restoring and cleaning headstones, cleaning and grooming spaces for graves, historical research, and data management.

There will be two information sessions for interested people at the Gill-Montague Senior Center

in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 25 at 11 a.m. and Tuesday, February 28 at 5 p.m.

**Recruiters from Associated Home Care** are ready to meet with you about possible job positions with their company as home health care aides; they offer paid training. Meet with recruiters at the Franklin-Hampshire Career Center in Greenfield, 1 Arch Place, Greenfield from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 28.

The **Montague Library Trustees** are also seeking an interim member for their committee. One person is needed until the town election in May. Send a letter of interest by Wednesday, March 1 to [librarydirector@montague-ma.gov](mailto:librarydirector@montague-ma.gov).

Paul Richmond of Human Error Press has run the Word Stage at the Garlic & Arts Festival in Orange for many years. If you have read your work on that stage, he invites you to submit it for an **upcoming Garlic & Arts anthology** he is publishing.

Send him up to 200 words of your impression of the Festival, a six-sentence bio and photo, and any number of poems that total no more than 130 lines by March 31. Send your submission to [paul@humanerrorpublishing.com](mailto:paul@humanerrorpublishing.com) with the subject line “Garlic & Arts Anthology.”

Our **2022 Wrapping Paper Fundraiser** came in with \$2,200 in sales, and we still have some copies left over! The decorative papers are suitable for any occasion and make an affordable, attractive, recyclable alternative to traditional wrapping paper. We are happy that this project was able to boost the work of seven local artists, as well as help us keep the presses rolling.

Don’t forget that we still have our special newspaper-printed aprons available with any \$100 donation, as well. Wrapping paper and aprons will be available at the reception for the *Montague at Work and Play* exhibit at the Rendezvous this Sunday.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

**DIRECTOR** from page A1

personality, and charm” impressed the hiring committee formed by the board of health, and that she had expressed a strong preference for working in a small town, having passed up opportunities to apply for work in Worcester and Boston.

At a taped public hearing before the board of health on January 8, David complimented the board on pronouncing her name correctly, and in response to a question from board member Rachel Stoler, she explained her interest in working in Montague.

“It is common that people move every day for work,” she said. “Working in a small island district... will give me the benefit of the doubt of understanding the town administration, or the hierarchy of how things function. You come with a better understanding of that, having worked in a small district, a small island.... So a small town like Montague... provides some opportunity for me to bring the skills that I do have, to learn some new skills, and to grow and develop.”

David also stressed the number of institutions of higher education in the region, which she said might help further her professional development.

Stoler asked David who she would have dinner with, if it could be any one person “living or dead.” David quickly responded by naming Nelson Mandela, who became South Africa’s first Black head of state in 1994 after serving 27 years in prison, because she wanted “to understand how could you get to a place mentally that you have so much forgiveness.”

David currently lives and works in the Turks and Caicos Islands, two joined archipelagos southeast of the Bahamas. The islands are a territory of Great Britain, with a governor appointed by the British Queen or King, and a prime minister representing the majority in the elected parliament.

According to the *World Fact Book* published by the Central Intelligence Agency, Turks and Caicos is a highly urbanized country (94%), whose economy relies heavily on tourism. The country has roughly four-fifths the population of Franklin County in roughly half its land area. A 2006 estimate reported 87.6% of the population as black, and 7.9% white; in terms of wealth, the gross domestic product per capita ranks 98<sup>th</sup> in the world, between the Dominican Republic and China.

The islands were hit hard by Hurricane Maria in 2017, and tourism has declined during the COVID-19 pandemic.

David’s current residence did not seem to negatively influence town officials at Monday’s meeting. “I think her credentials speak for themselves,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. Selectboard member Chris Boutwell noted that he had served on the hiring committee, and concurred with the decision to offer David the job.

“I trust the people know the credentials,” said member Matt Lord, “and the [hiring] committee is wonderful, so that’s great.”

David, who could not attend this week’s selectboard meeting due to, in Nelson’s words, a “medical condition,” will need to obtain state certifications for inspections of septic systems, soil, housing, and lead paint in Massachusetts,

as well as certification as a swimming pool operator, according to a memo prepared by Nelson and town administrator Steve Ellis. The memo did not indicate that acquiring these certifications would be an obstacle to employment.

But there was another small caveat: David is not currently an American citizen. She will need to obtain an H-1B visa, which is a “nonimmigrant classification” that “applies to people who wish to perform services in a specialty occupation,” in the words of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

According to Ellis, the town, rather than David herself, must apply for the visa, and will need to work with legal counsel well versed in immigration law, which Montague’s regular town counsel KP Law is not. Ellis said he had exchanged “preliminary communications” with an “excellent firm” in Northampton.

Ellis then reported that while 65,000 candidates are accepted for potential H-1B status through a preliminary lottery each year, there are “around 200,000 [employers] who pursue those spots,” so he estimated a 30% chance the town would move to the next step of the application process, the “make sure that all the credentials line up” stage.

The visa lottery opens March 1, and Montague will know by the end of that month whether its candidate had been accepted. The board authorized Ellis to move forward with the hiring process and with engaging counsel, which can be financed under the town’s existing legal budget.

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The failed pipe was displayed at Monday's meeting, as if in an attempt to shame it. Town administrator Ray Purington (left) and selectboard member Randy Crochier look on.

## GILL from page A1

reported that fortunately no electronic damage had been found, and there seemed to be "no major loss of critical records." The bulk of damaged documents have been thrown away, along with wet insulation, carpet, and ceiling tiles. Documents that might be important and other items have been cleaned, dried, and placed in an on-site storage pod.

"We're still working away through the [records] that are damp," Purington said, "and deciding whether it's 'have to keep it' or 'should have gotten rid of it years ago.'"

Purington said the damage was less catastrophic than it could have been thanks to a responsive *ad hoc* clean-up crew. Town clerk Doreen Stevens had discovered the leak on a Sunday afternoon and notified the others.

"This is my 13th year on the selectboard," said member Randy Crochier, "and I've had emails over the years that say there was a leak. But when it was a group text that said 'Do you have shop vacs? We have a big leak -'"

"We all came running," laughed member Greg Snedeker.

"We each grabbed a shop vac and got here, that's all," concluded Crochier.

Crochier thanked Purington and members of the fire department who also rushed in to help, as well as Doreen and Gary Stevens. "Gary was holding it back individually until we got here," he said, "while Doreen was trying to protect valuable records."

An army of dehumidifiers, fans, and air filters are still hard at work, said Purington, and "things are beginning to dry out." "I bet the meter's going faster than you can see," he said, adding that the town's insurance should cover the excess electricity being used to run the equipment, and that he would continue to work with the insurance adjusters as they assess the damage.

Purington noted one "tiny

mixed blessing": the town is already taking steps toward permanently fixing moisture buildup in the basement. The town was recently awarded \$50,000 in funding through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program to study what was making the basement perpetually damp and research solutions.

"Some of the work that's happening now as part of the basement flood is work that was going to need to happen before we refinished that space," he said. "I don't want to rebuild those walls until we've stopped the water from coming in."

Purington encouraged board members to "start toying with ideas of what the future use of that space should look like." He stated that the assessors' office would likely remain on the first floor, as it is convenient to residents to have all town personnel in the same area, and said the building's greatest needs are "lockable storage, and open meeting space."

### No Waitlist for Rehab

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) submitted its annual report on Gill's housing rehab revolving loan fund. Two loans were made during the last year, depleting the fund from \$68,000 to \$12,921, a sum Purington said is probably only enough to fund one small project.

Purington took a moment to explain how the revolving fund works. "Every few years, we apply for community development block grant funding for housing rehab projects," he said. "That awarded money gets loaned out to people at low interest, or zero interest. The payback doesn't happen until the property changes hands." When a property is sold, the repaid money returns to the fund to be loaned again for other rehab projects.

The report also stated that there are no households on the waiting list.

"Until we have at least a little bit of a list, showing that there's demand for the housing rehab loans, there's no point in applying for the block grant funding," said Purington.

He said he would work to put notices out in newsletters and newspapers to remind residents about the option. The board authorized a one-year extension to the agreement allowing FCRHRA to manage the fund.

### Electricity Aggregation

In 2017, Gill joined 12 other Franklin County towns in a municipal electricity aggregation contract, with the goal of providing more affordable energy options to residents. "I really feel bad for anyone who isn't signed up to the town program," said Purington.

The cheapest option through the municipal offering is 9.6 cents per kilowatt hour, while those in neighboring towns are paying close to 22 cents per kilowatt hour.

As the current contract will end in January 2024, consultants Colonial Power Group are encouraging towns to begin the process of seeking new proposals. "Over the last six weeks or so, there has been a pretty steady downward trend," Colonial vice president of operations Denise Allard wrote in an email to the 13 towns. "We don't know how long this downward trend will continue so we want to start thinking about requesting pricing in the coming months."

Allard also wrote that other municipalities might be interested in joining the contract.

The selectboard members said they were open to others joining, and Purington said he would report back with more information.

### Cost of Living

The board approved a request from the Franklin Regional Retirement System to give retirees a 5% cost of living allowance (COLA)

on the first \$17,000 of each person's retirement benefits, rather than the traditional 3%. This will give the average retiree an extra \$647 this year.

This increase is only possible because the state legislature and governor approved a one-time increase to the pension COLA cap last November.

"I think it's totally appropriate, considering inflation," said Snedeker as he voted to approve the increase, noting that Social Security payments are increasing by 8.7% this year.

### Six-Town Planning Board

"I think we're coming into the home stretch," reported Snedeker, who is also the vice chair of the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB), the group looking into the feasibility of combining the middle and high schools of Gill Montague and Pioneer Valley Regional School Districts.

"We all agree the educational benefits [of regionalizing] are significant," said Snedeker. Now the board will research the projected financial costs and benefits of a new six-town district.

"It may be that we accept that it's maybe not the most favorable for some towns," Snedeker warned, adding that the group is thinking through "different scenarios" to understand long-term financial implications for towns.

"We should hopefully have more financial information in the next couple of months," he concluded.

### Other Business

The board approved a sewer abatement of \$16.39 for Riverside Water District chair Jeff Suprenant, who metered the water to fill a spa.

At the end of the public meeting, the board retired to a private executive session to discuss Gill's litigation strategy regarding the FirstLight Power relicensing process.

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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

Walter Ramsey, then still “wearing his town planner hat,” applied to the MHP last spring for a grant to plan “new housing opportunities near transit stops.”

The town received the grant, which Pollock said will evaluate “land use, zoning, and connectivity,” and the MHP assigned the technical assistance contract to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., a large design and planning corporation with offices up and down the eastern seaboard, including in Worcester.

Pollock also said that “community engagement will be a big part of this project, to help understand what the neighborhood envisions for its center.” She said that the consultants “will help the community understand what can be done, under current regulations.”

She pointed to the recent “visioning workshop” on February 4 that organized community input to inform Montague’s forthcoming comprehensive plan, and told the Reporter that when the workshop broke into groups by village, she sat and listened at the table of Montague City residents.

A spokesperson of that neighborhood group, summarizing the discussion to the larger audience, said that the vacant town-owned land anticipated after the Farren demolition was viewed as a “positive” development, and that the residents suggested a community center, a bakery, and co-housing for elders as appropriate projects.

The focus group also suggested locating a public pool in the area, and making the bike path connection on Rod Shop Road more appealing by building a playground or community garden on adjacent town-owned land.

At Monday’s meeting the selectboard approved a memorandum of understanding with MHP that also involved projects in Greenfield, Orange, Erving, Whately, and Deerfield. Pollock later confirmed that all those towns will need to approve the document.

**Sewer Systems**

In other news from the February 13 meeting, town administrator Steve Ellis updated the board on the complex process for developing a job description for the “lead collection system operator,” a new position proposed in the department of public works (DPW).

The complexities arise from the fact that the position would involve expertise in the local sewer system, including the traditional “sanitary sewers” that flow to the Clean Water Facility (CWF), the combined sewer overflows, catch basins, and new technologies such as a sewer camera and an online public notification system.

The job will require not only computer skills, but also the ability to plow snow and mow grass when there is downtime in the sewer monitoring work. The position will have an odd-job status within the DPW hi-

erarchy, Ellis explained, more like a lead operator at the Clean Water Facility (CWF), and would potentially be funded by both property taxes and sewer user fees, in an uncertain ratio.

Ellis presented the board with a five-page draft job description developed through discussions with DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron, CWF superintendent Chelsey Little, and a representative of the United Electrical Workers union.

The description requires three to five years’ experience, and Ellis seemed to indicate a preference for hiring a current public works employee.

Selectboard member Matt Lord said the three- to five-year qualification and the possible preference for an internal candidate were “a curveball” for him, and asked if there was a person experienced in “regulatory reporting” on staff. Ellis said he would be more concerned with a candidate’s computer and maintenance skills than their expertise in regulations.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked whether the board should vote on the job description, and Ellis responded that Monday’s meeting was only a first reading. “My goal was to get a sense if there were any major or minor adjustments that the selectboard might want to make,” he explained. Ellis said the next step would be to “bring this more formally to union representatives,” then bring a final version to the board for approval.

The job description and a revised DPW budget would need to be completed prior to issuing the warrant in March for the annual town meeting in May.

Little came before the selectboard, wearing its “sewer commission” hats, to give the monthly CWF report. She said the data on discharge into the Connecticut River was generally “well within” the plant’s norm, and compliant with its permit.

She then reviewed the flow from Millers Falls to the Erving wastewater facility where that village’s sewage is processed. According to Little, that flow has often exceeded the amount stipulated in Montague’s contract with Erving, but last calendar year the flow was approximately 3 million gallons below the cap.

Ellis said that the low level of waste pumped to Erving was “almost an anomaly,” due to the very dry previous summer.

Little reported that the alarm system regulating flow into the plant’s screw pumps, which move sanitary waste up a grade at the CWF for further treatment, had shorted out. She said staff have been able to adjust the pumps to a different alarm system, but this requires alternating the two pumps, and might not work effectively during periods of high flow.

Little revealed that with Ramsey’s assistance she had altered the bidding process for a new generator at the CWF to include the purchase of a used, reconditioned generator, as advocated by Kuklewicz at a previous meeting.

Little also reported that the facility has begun receiving a small amount of “liquid sludge” from towns in the region, in this case Hatfield and Sunderland, to be pressed. She estimated that this program would bring in just over \$50,000 in net revenue per year, after expenses. She added that processing this sludge over the weekends would provide “food” for the plant’s microorganisms, which “starve” during those days.

**Discretion & Redundancy**

Mike Kane and Anna Raby of the electric company Eversource came to update the town on the status of redundant electric poles, created when the company raises new poles and equipment but does not remove old ones in a timely manner. The problem, which Eversource attributes to the failure of Comcast and Verizon to move their lines off the old poles, has been a big concern of the selectboard.

Raby said there are now only 69 redundant poles in Montague, which she called “a big change from 2000 which is what we began with.”

Kuklewicz called that development “better news than usual.”

**Other Business**

The board approved a request from Annie Levine, who oversees the farmers market at Peskeompskut Park, for the use of the park on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. from May to October. She said the market is moving from Wednesdays to Saturdays because the Wednesday date has proven difficult for both vendors and customers.

The board approved and endorsed articles on the upcoming March 2 special town meeting that would change both the town treasurer/collector and town clerk from elected to appointed positions, after an appearance by current elected town clerk Deb Bourbeau endorsing the change.

After numerous statements in support of the change from members of the selectboard and the public, town meeting moderator Ray Godin said he thought the change was a “bad move.”

“I would not be surprised if town meeting voted it down,” Godin warned, and went on to say that he felt “both positions should be elected, but how I deal with that as far as being vocal is yet to be determined.”

Executive assistant Wendy Bogusz announced a March 16 deadline for articles for the annual town meeting in May, and said that the Turners Falls power canal would be closed between September 25 through 30 for repair and maintenance.

A discussion of the use of Montague’s remaining ARPA funds was delayed to a future meeting to give the board an opportunity to review a list of committed funds and potential proposals presented by Ellis.

The board retired to an executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy. Their next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 27.



**PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that the **Shea Theater Arts Center**, Christopher Belmonte as manager, has applied for a transfer of the On Premise, Section 12, Annual All Alcohol Liquor License (Restaurant from Hubie’s Tavern, Inc. D/B/A Hubie’s Tavern and Restaurant. The new On-Premise Section 12, Annual All-Alcohol Liquor License type will change to General On-Premise.

The licensed premises is located at **71 Avenue A**, Turners Falls, MA consisting of approximately 8,775 square feet (total building) with 3,869 square feet on first floor and 908 square feet in basement area. One front entrance and 5 emergency exits. Alcohol to be stored in a locked refrigeration unit and/or a locked cabinet in the bar area.

Date and place of hearing: Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:32 p.m. via ZOOM  
See agenda for link: <https://www.montague-ma.gov/d/8939/Selectboard>

Montague License Commissioners

**LEVERETT CON COM HEARING**

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public hearing on March 6, 2023 at a meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (login info at [www.leverett.ma.us](http://www.leverett.ma.us)) to review an NOI submitted by Hillary and Rich Ferro for electric pole installation at **350 Shutesbury Road**. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Montague Nomination Papers Now Available**

Nomination papers for the annual town election on Tuesday, May 16 are now available at the Town Clerk’s office until Monday, March 27. Available offices are as follows:

*Selectman*, three-year term, currently held by Matthew Lord;

*Assessor*, three-year term, currently held by Rebecca Sabelawski;

*Board of Health*, three-year term, currently held by Michael Nelson;

*Parks and Recreation*, three-year term, currently held by Dennis Grader;

*Library Trustees*, three three-year terms, currently held by Paulette Billiel, David Harmon, and Lydia Ievins;

*Library Trustee*, one-year term, vacant;

*Montague Housing Authority*, five-year term, currently held by Karen Casey Chretien;

*Soldiers’ Memorial Trustee (Veteran)*, three-year term, currently held by Lori Lee Adams;

*Soldiers’ Memorial Trustee (Non-Veteran)*, three-year term, currently held by Christopher Boutwell;

*Town Meeting Members*, for all six precincts.

Nomination papers must be returned no later than Wednesday, March 29 by 5 p.m. Potential town-wide offices need to obtain 34 signatures of registered voters from the “town at large” to be placed on the ballot. Potential town meeting members need to obtain 10 signatures from registered voters of their “home precinct” to be placed on the ballot.

The annual town election will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nomination papers regarding school committee seats are provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crockers Avenue, 863-9324. The Town Clerk’s office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

For more information, please call the office at 863-3200 x. 203 or email [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov).

**... Fire District Papers, Too!**

Nomination papers for the annual Turners Falls Fire District election are now available to all district residents. Papers may be obtained from the district office, located at 226 Millers Falls Road, until Monday, March 6 and must be returned no later than Wednesday, March 8.

The district office is open Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All potential candidates need to obtain 30 signatures from registered voters of the Turners Falls Fire District.

Offices are as follows: *Moderator*, for a three-year term; *Treasurer*, for a three-year term; *District Clerk*, for a three-year term; *Prudential Committee*, for a three-year term; and *Water Commissioner*, for a three-year term.

The annual election will be held on Tuesday, April 25. The polls will be open from noon to 7 p.m.

District residents wishing to register to vote may do so at the Town Clerk’s office located in Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls or online at [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com). For more information, you may call the district office at 863-4542.

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# Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página mensual en español del *Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a [spanish@montaguereporter.org](mailto:spanish@montaguereporter.org).



## Gente de Franklin County: Edite Cunhã

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

**TURNERS FALLS** – Esta semana traigo a la sección a una mujer renacentista en el sentido más profundo de la palabra. Una mujer polifacética: escritora, artista, profesora y organizadora comunitaria. Y es también una mujer poliédrica: hija, madre, bilingüe, feminista, inmigrante, y ciudadana de Franklin County.

Había oído hablar mucho de Edite Cunhã y habíamos conectado en las redes sociales, pero no nos conocíamos en persona. Decidí escribirle y amablemente me invitó a entrevistarla en a su casa en Turners Falls.

La vivienda está muy cerca de la avenida principal, pero escondida en un callejón con aires neoyorkinos. Nada más ver el pequeño jardín delantero me doy cuenta de que allí vive una artista. Parece un jardín habitado por hadas que han ido dejando pequeñas pistas acerca de la personalidad de la persona que allí habita.

Edite me recibe con un café recién hecho y nos sentamos a charlar en su salita llena de rayos de sol.

### Su Biografía

Edite nació en Portugal, en una zona rural cerca de Coimbra. Cuando era niña su familia emigró al este de Massachusetts desde su país natal.

Sus padres decidieron salir de Portugal por razones políticas. Portugal fue una dictadura desde 1932 hasta 1968, dirigida por el fascista Antonio de Salazar. Los padres de Edite querían dar una vida mejor a sus hijos ya que ellos solamente habían podido ir a la escuela durante cuatro años para ponerse a trabajar y pensaban que ese era el futuro que les esperaba a sus hijos si seguían en Portugal.

La madre de Edite había nacido en Brasil y de ahí emigró a Portugal. En esos años, el presidente Kennedy, queriendo evitar tener otra Cuba cerca de Estados Unidos, creó el programa *Alianza para el Progreso*. Este programa ofrecía ayudas económicas de distintos tipos a países de Latinoamérica que se adherirían al tratado. Uno de ellos fue Brasil, y esto hizo que la familia de Edite pudiera emigrar más fácilmente a los Estados Unidos. A la Edite niña le fue difícil al principio entender el beneficio de dejar a su familia en Portugal.

Así pues, toda la familia Cunhã, los padres de Edite y sus dos hermanos pequeños se trasladaron a vivir a al este de Massachusetts, en la zona de Peabody, muy cerca de Salem. Allí había una comunidad creciente de portugueses provenientes en su mayoría de las Azores, aunque la mayoría de inmigrantes provenía de Grecia.

En aquellos años todavía no habían inmigrado muchos latinos a la zona, así que los portugueses eran los estaban en lo más bajo de la pirámide social de la inmigración. La discriminación era muy importante.

En los años 60, Peabody era un lugar en el que se estaban creando muchos puestos de trabajo, y su padre consiguió trabajo en una fábrica de pieles. Añade que eran otros tiempos en Estados Unidos y que el trabajo de su padre incluía la cobertura completa de seguro médico.

Primero vivieron unos meses con una familia que les había esponsorizado hasta que sus padres consiguieron ahorrar dinero para rentar su propio apartamento. Recuerda muy bien que el alquiler costaba 13 dólares a la semana, incluida la calefacción. Su padre y su madre en dos años consiguieron ahorrar



Edite en su salón con una taza de café.

dinero para comprar una casa, y así lo hicieron por 9.000 dólares. Era casa con otros dos apartamentos que sus padres arrendaban para tener un dinero extra.

Aunque su padre solamente había ido a la escuela durante cuatro años, enseguida empezó a aprender inglés e historia de los Estados Unidos para poder pasar el examen de naturalización y de esa manera poder traer al resto de la familia que se había quedado en Portugal. Poco a poco toda la familia fue trasladándose desde Portugal a los Estados Unidos.

Su abuelita se mudó a los Estados Unidos después de enviudar. Edite me cuenta una anécdota preciosa sobre ella cuando le preguntó si fue difícil para los ancianos de su familia irse a Estados Unidos. Un día, Edite y su abuela se quedaron solas, lejos del ruido producido por todos los miembros de la familia. La abuelita se sentó en el jardín de la casa de los tíos de Edite a hacer crochet. Esto era inusual para su abuela en Portugal ya que no paraba en todo el día: tenía que cuidar de los animales, del huerto y de la casa. No tenía tiempo de sentarse tranquila a hacer crochet.

La casa estaba situada en lugar no muy bonito, rodeada de fábricas. La abuelita miró a su alrededor y le dijo: “Edite, este debe ser el culo de América. ¿Quién habría pensado que encontraría mi paraíso en este lugar?”. Sus últimos años de vida fueron muy diferentes de su vida en Portugal donde no había parado de trabajar.

Edite me cuenta acerca sus experiencias siendo niña acompañando a su madre al médico, u otros lugares para servir como traductora. Me habla de la ansiedad que le provocaba tener esta responsabilidad, y que estaba obsesionada con la posibilidad de que una palabra mal elegida por su parte pudiera provocar una serie de catástrofes en su familia.

Hablamos de cómo esta experiencia puede llegar a resultar traumática para los niños al robarles una parte de su infancia, y darles una responsabilidad que no deberían tener como niños. Edite me cuenta de una experiencia que había presenciado recientemente en una tienda en Turners Falls cuan-

do una niña pequeña ayudaba a su madre a entenderse con la persona de la tienda y no conseguía entender la situación.

Es la misma experiencia que escritoras latinas como Esmeralda Santiago y Sandra Cisneros han narrado en sus novelas *Cuando era puertorriqueña* y *La casa en Mango Street*, respectivamente.

### Su Obra

Como mencioné al principio Edite es una persona con una increíble creatividad. Empezamos a hablar de la influencia de sus experiencias vitales en su literatura: Los silencios en su casa en Portugal para evitar cuestiones políticas por miedo a no saber quiénes eran los informantes del régimen fascista; de sus responsabilidades como traductora en Estados Unidos para sus padres; los olores de las fábricas en Peabody, o la rabia que le producía que su primera maestra aquí le cambiara su nombre para asemejarlo a la pronunciación inglesa; o de la influencia de la subcultura étnica en Peabody.

A Edite le gusta escribir a mano, con lo cual necesita solamente un lápiz y un papel. Lo difícil para ella es escribir sobre temas que todavía le hacen daño. Hablamos de cómo el proceso de escritura acerca de temas que nos tocan emocionalmente necesita primero de un proceso de curación, una especie de limpieza del alma.

Está tratando de terminar dos libros. Uno de ellos, *Talking the new land*, es el que no podía terminar antes de la muerte de su madre. Su familia, aunque ficción, forma los personajes principales. Es un libro político, con un mensaje cultural y étnico. Algunas de las historias recogidas en este libro han sido publicadas en libros que usamos en el salón de clases ya que son historias humanas que pueden extrapolarse a diferentes lenguas y países.

El segundo libro, *Visitations*, tiene lugar en Portugal. Es un libro espiritual en el que el personaje principal llamado Clarita interacciona con personas ya muertas.

Edite ha traducido algunas de las obras de María Teresa Horta, poetisa portu-  
guese-

sa, reconocida por su activismo feminista y político en contra de la dictadura de Salazar. Horta es también una de las fundadoras junto con Isabel Barreno y María Velho da Costa de Las Tres Marías que publicaron la obra conocida internacionalmente *Nuevas Cartas Portuguesas*, en la que las autoras gritan contra la censura y la violencia del régimen de Salazar, el machismo y el patriarcado endémico en Portugal y las injusticias de la colonización.

Edite y una colega están el proceso de traducir muchas de sus obras al inglés y en continua comunicación con ella para hablar acerca del proceso de traducción.

Edite me habla también de Exploded View, su grupo formado en 2016 con otras tres mujeres de la zona: Trish Crapo de Leyden, Nina Rossi de Turners Falls, and Samantha Wood de Greenfield. Es un grupo que organiza exposiciones y *performances* culturales con relevancia política. Todas son escritoras y artistas.

El grupo se llama así porque iban a lecturas de libros y hoy decidieron incorporar el arte la literatura y así explotar su arte. Su primera *performance* en Greenfield fue justo antes de la famosa frase derogatoria contra las mujeres dicha por Trump y ya incluía un mensaje político.

Poco después tuvieron un encuentro con Linda McInerney de *Eggtooth Productions* y esa única reunión cambió totalmente la forma de hacer sus *performances* y la forma de presentarse.

Estas cuatro mujeres se reúnen en los sitios más insospechados como puede ser un parque, una montaña, en el río, o incluso en la cama. En todos estos lugares es donde encuentran la inspiración para escribir, crear, filmar y representar.

### Franklin County

Edite llegó a Northampton desde Peabody para estudiar en Smith College como estudiante no tradicional con sus dos hijas después de divorciarse. Le fue difícil dejar su comunidad portuguesa allí, aunque enseguida se dio cuenta de que era un buen lugar para criar a sus hijas. Más tarde se mudó a West Howley al casarse por segunda vez, una comunidad con solamente unos centenares de habitantes en el medio del bosque con sus hijas adolescentes.

La siguiente mudanza fue a Turners Falls para trabajar con The Literacy Project. Trabajaba con mujeres de bajos recursos que querían aprender a escribir y leer ya que no habían podido hacerlo antes y también como organizadora comunitaria.

Llegó a Turners muy afectada por la enfermedad de Lyme, casi impedida para llevar una vida normal. Debido a esto compró una casita en el centro de Turners cerca del banco, el supermercado, y la oficina de correos. Tuvo que dejar su trabajo enseñando y empezó a trabajar en un restaurante italiano en la avenida A.

A Edite le encanta la atmósfera en Franklin County, con gente corriente que hace cosas extraordinarias, que hace comunidad y que no es pretenciosa. Vivir en Turners es saber apreciar los defectos, que son reales y palpables, como una piedra en el zapato, pero que hacen que vivir aquí tenga un encanto especial.

Si ustedes quieren saber más acerca de Edite Cunhã, pueden visitar su página web: [www.editecunha.com](http://www.editecunha.com). En dicha web encontrarán también información acerca de *Exploded View*.

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**GMRSD** from page A1

of French or Latin, presumably the *linguae francae* of the destinations.

Committee members wanted to know how accessible the trip was. Advisor Megan Bendiksen said the group fundraised extensively, and that “the extended time has really helped” that process. The committee unanimously approved the trip.

The committee has been meeting remotely for nearly three years, but the rules allowing this only extend to March 31, and legislators are expected to let them lapse.

Uncertainty also hangs over the state budget. Though Gill-Montague will not know key revenues and expenses until early March or later, the committee must vote on the FY’24 budget on March 14.

Business manager Joanne Blier said the state Group Insurance Commission will set rates on March 2, and warned this could mean a “couple hundred thousand” in variance, one of several large “unknown things.” The approved preliminary budget does not eliminate any staff, but the administration is compiling lists of principals’ priorities in case it can spend more or must cut costs.

Tuesday’s meeting included a budget hearing. A half-dozen teachers attended including Gill-Mon-

tagne Education Association president Ron Wood, who asked if there would be another chance for input once final figures were in. Blier said there would likely not be.

Gill rep Cristina Marcalow said she was uncomfortable voting on a budget without a chance to review the numbers, and proposed the February 28 meeting be rescheduled to March 7. The committee agreed.

High school teacher Leslie Charles said her principal had not asked staff for input on funding priorities. “Principals should be actively reaching out to teachers about what they need,” Marcalow said.

Beck announced this year’s Earl McGraw Uplift Award winners: high school music teacher Alyssa Co-meau, who has expanded the music program from 18 students to over 100, and senior Jaade Duncan.

Committee members reported back from a meeting with high school students. Heather Katsoulis said the students called attention to empty soap dispensers, expired water filters, and a policy of locking bathrooms to curb vaping – a behavior of a “small number of students” who continue to vape in the crowded, unlocked bathrooms. “Someone brought up that they don’t feel [we’ve] been addressing young peo-

**MONTAGUE MEMBER WANTED for SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

There is an open seat for a Montague resident on the Gill-Montague School Committee. Interested residents should email Superintendent Brian Beck at [brian.beck@gmrtd.org](mailto:brian.beck@gmrtd.org) or send a letter to Brian Beck, 35 Crocker Ave., Turners Falls, MA 01376, by Monday, March 6, so the Committee can consider potential candidates at the meeting on Tuesday, March 7.

ple with addictions,” she added.

“These students don’t know how to quit on their own, and they don’t have the resources to quit,” said student representative Syna Katsoulis.

Beck said the schools offer no addiction counseling because after state laws governing cannabis impact fees changed last summer, Montague discontinued funding a drug and alcohol counselor shared by Gill-Montague and Franklin Tech.

The committee voted 7-0, with Montague member Jennifer Waryas abstaining, to continue to allow students to choose in. “Our district was strongly in resistance to it years ago,” Gill member Bill Tomb recounted, “but it became a non-winnable situation when districts all around us chose to take choice students in.”

Tomb said town selectboards have “really been absent” from the Six-Town Regional Planning Board. Warwick, one of the six towns, has broken off from Pioneer Valley and formed its own district, after Pioneer voted to close Warwick Elementary.

**LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

*Here’s the way it was on February 14, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

**Leverett Fire Needs Recruits**

Within three to five years, 45% of Leverett’s call firefighters will retire, Peter Reich, a member of the fire department study committee,

told the selectboard. Almost half of the 13-member crew is reaching the age where “they are not comfortable carrying 40 to 50 pounds of weight into a burning building,” he said, “and there are not young people in town – that’s the reality.”

Several committee members said young people cannot afford to buy a home in Leverett.

**20 YEARS AGO**

*Here’s the way it was on February 13, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

**Streetscape Plan Advances**

At a public hearing Wednesday, the executive committee of the Franklin COG voted unanimously to approve a package of land and easement takings advancing the

Millers Falls Streetscape Project by relocating the county layout of East Main Street.

Richard Conley, lessee of the Powers Block at the southwest corner of Main and Bridge streets, objected to the proposal for the area in front of the Powers Block but failed to demonstrate that he had legal title to or control of any land beyond the footprint of that building.

**150 YEARS AGO**

*Here’s the way it was on February 12, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.*

**Local Matters**

A. Brainard, Esq. of Greenfield, tried a case of aggravated assault last week. Loren P. Chase of Bernardston and John G. Fritz of Turners Falls had a horse trade. Chase found after the transaction that a halter or piece of rein had been taken away, as he supposed by Fritz, and started in pursuit in great wrath. After riding several miles, he

came up with the latter, knocked him down and gave him a terrible beating. Fritz made a complaint and Chase was fined \$20 and costs. Fritz has entered a suit for damages.

James Gallagher, while at work in the Paper Mill on Monday morning, got his hand caught in the callenders and lost the little finger and had another finger badly smashed in the operation. Dr. Coy attended the patient.

The Stockholders of the Crocker National Bank hold their meeting next Tuesday to see about increasing their capital stock.



language to ensure that continuity of town operations is made a priority. Town administrator Bryan Smith agreed to modify the language and bring the policy back for approval.


The board gave a “second reading” to a policy on police department access to the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information System database, and had no recommended changes.

An activities coordinator, Dulcie McAndrews, has been hired for the senior and community center. She has extensive experience as a security guard and corrections officer.

At a prior meeting, the selectboard had asked about the “community” aspect of the center, and members expressed interest in that aspect not being neglected. This reporter stopped by last weekend and saw a small sign indicating “Senior Center Hours” – Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., hours during which many residents are at school or work – and no mention of community center hours. The town website includes a page for the Senior and Community Center with a logo for the “Erving Senior Center.”

The board awarded the work on the Wheelock Street culvert to Flynn Enterprises Inc of Raynham. Their bid came in at \$283,000.

A business license was granted for Bagels N’More at 7 West Main Street, the location of the old Crooked Tap. They are opening this week.

Mike Jackson contributed additional writing. 

**ERVING** from page A1

equipment expenses.

Other notable expenses include \$75,000 for financial software, \$50,000 for streetlight repairs, and \$150,000 for Erving Elementary School. “The School Department needs the capacity to fund out-of-district placements and associated costs,” the warrant explains.

These special education expenses are also driving increases in the funding the elementary school is requesting for FY’24, with new out-of-district tuition in the vicinity of \$243,000, causing what would have been 3.5% growth in the town’s assessment to rise to 10.9% growth.

“It’s a large number,” warned selectboard member Scott Bastarache of the special education expenses, “that exponentially will get bigger over the next five or so years.”

Union #28 superintendent Jennifer Culkeen and finance director Caitlin Sheridan presented the requested \$3.8 million budget. It emerged that the Erving school committee had voted not to include the transportation costs associated with the new out-of-district placements in the budget, in hopes that the school or town will receive a grant for a new van. Sheridan said that bus costs were estimated at up to \$181,000.

“We’ve gotta fund the worst case, unless we know something different,” said selectboard chair Jacob Smith. The school committee was asked to add the bus cost – which would bring the growth to over 16%.

This is expected to cause Erving’s total requested FY’24 budget to exceed its levy limit, as defined by Proposition 2½, which sets a ceiling on the amount by which the town is allowed to increase its taxes on existing property at 2.5% per year.

Board member Jacob Smith said that while final department requests are still coming in and the town does not yet have a total figure, he expects it will exceed the limit. “I would be making assumptions or projections to say right now,” he said, “but I think more than likely, based on what we’ve seen so far in the budget review, in my personal opinion we are going to go back through and start redlining, or having conversations with all the departments of where are we cutting to make it balanced.”

“We can’t recommend it unless it’s balanced,” he added.

How to deal with that issue will be on the front burner in upcoming selectboard meetings. The next one is scheduled for February 27.

Franklin County Technical School’s assessment to the towns in its district is expected to increase by 3% next year, and Erving’s enrollment there is expected to decline from 28 to 26, so the town’s assessment is expected to decrease slightly.

**Other Business**

Before the joint meeting, the board dealt with a few other matters.

The board gave a “third reading” to a proposed policy on remote work for town employees, tweaking the



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# High School Sports: Eagles Dominate

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** –The Franklin Tech girls' basketball team continued their dominance over their opponents this week, besting both Pioneer and Turners Falls. The Turners girls literally rebounded from that loss, finishing their regular season with a victory over Smith.

The boys' teams were also in action. Tech defeated the visiting Thunder and accepted a Mohawk forfeit to close out their regular season, and the Turners boys sandwiched two Mount Greylock losses around the Tech defeat.

While the other winter sports are wrapping up their regular seasons, cheer competitions are just ramping up. The Turners Falls hybrid cheer squad tumbled to a third-place win on Sunday, and they have two more left before they wrap up their third season of competition.

Also this week, the Super Bowl was decided on an iffy defensive penalty, and the internet blew up with accusations of lip-syncing.

## Girls' Basketball

FCTS 35 – TFHS 16 (JV)

FCTS 52 – TFHS 26

TFHS 51 – Smith 27

FCTS 51 – Pioneer 36

The Turners Falls Lady Thunder crossed Millers Falls Road last Thursday, February 9 and attempted to upset the Franklin Tech Eagles. Turners donned their blue color-splash uniforms while the Eagles wore their home white.

The Blue Thunder took an early lead, but midway through the first quarter Tech took over. Turners had countered Tech's smothering defense by making quick passes up and down the court, but the Birds soon got in the way, forcing Blue to stop and scan the court for open teammates. This created an

opportunity for steals: a Tech player would come from behind and strip the ball. Turners went from leading 8-5 to trailing 20-10 at the buzzer.

In the second, Blue had difficulty finding the hoop, while the Eagles started sinking the long shot, and at halftime they were up 35-14.

Franklin poured it on in the third, and the Lady Birds leaped out to a 50-18 lead before Thunder scored the last two points of the period. By the fourth, Tech only need to play keep-away, holding Blue to 6 points while settling for just 2 for a 52-26 win.

Although Franklin was hitting from the outside, they had difficulty making the freebies, converting just one foul shot. Lea Chapman won the battle in the paint, scoring 20 and making 10 rebounds. Kyra Goodell (13), Kendra Campbell (7), Hannah Gilbert (6), Kaitlin Trudeau (4), and Cordelia Guerin (2) contributed for the win.

For Blue, Tatiana Williams hit double digits for 10 points. Taylor Greene, Keira Richardson-Meatty, and Steph Peterson (4) and Madi Liimatainen and Abbi Holloway (2) all scored for Turners.

The Thunder Ladies finished up their regular season on a high note on Monday, shellacking the Purple Falcons of Smith Academy, 51-27. The Turners girls steadily improved this season, finishing their last eight games 6-and-2 with both losses at the hands of the 16-1 Eagles. Thunder now waits for their seeding in the upcoming PVIAC playoff bracket.

Also on Monday, the Tech Eagles dismantled the Pioneer Black Panthers, 51-30. Chapman scored 18 points and nabbed 11 rebounds; Campbell put up 16 and made six out of eight free throws; and Gilbert (5), Goodell (4), Jillian Crowningshield and Lilianna Inman (3), and Trudeau (2) also scored in the victory.

The Birds have one more game before jumping into the playoffs, closing their regular season against Putnam Vo-Tech this Thursday.

## Boys' Basketball

Mt. Greylock 80 – TFHS 46

FCTS 52 – TFHS 35 (JV)

FCTS 62 – TFHS 54

Mt. Greylock 71 – TFHS 48

FCTS 10 – Mohawk 0 (F)

The Turners boys celebrated Senior Night last Thursday, but Mount Greylock rained on their celebration. The Mountain took a 21-9 lead after one full. In the second, Blue held tight and matched Greylock's 18 points, but in the third the Mounties scored an amazing 30 points to head into the final bracket leading 69-34. That was all they needed, as they held on to win the game 80-46.

Logan Addison (18), JJ Charles (11), Levin Prondecki (9), Jakub Lavin and Alex Quezada (3), and Deven Shinall (2) scored for Blue.

Then on Friday, the Franklin boys welcomed the visiting Thunder. There was absolutely no parking anywhere near the entrance, and vehicles were forced to park as far away as the football field and the softball diamond. I didn't have a pony in this fight, but it was nice that the Tech regulars saved me my usual seat at midcourt.

It was Senior Night at Tech, and it commenced on a light note. When Noah Ausikaitis was called forward to receive his accolades, his uncle stood up with him – none other than Turners' own Levin Prondecki.

It was a pretty physical contest, with both teams accruing fouls early. The White Eagles came out hot from the tip-off, opening up a 10-0 lead before the Thunder scored their first point.

Blue recovered somewhat, and it was 12-4 Franklin at the buzzer.



Turners Falls's Raygan Pendriss drives the ball, closely guarded by Franklin Tech's Hannah Gilbert, as the Eagles hosted the Thunder at their Senior Night last Friday.

Tech stretched the lead to 16-4 in the opening minutes of the second quarter, but Blue regained their footing and narrowed the gap to 23-21 at halftime. In the second half Tech began pulling away, though, and went on to win it 62-54.

The Eagles travel to Palmer this Friday to take on the Panthers, and host Westfield Tech next Monday.

The Turners boys lost again against Mount Greylock, 71-48, on Valentine's Day in Williamstown. Eight scored for the Thunder: Addison (12), Cameron Burnett (9), Prondecki (8), Joey Mosca (6), Quezada (5), Shinall and Deven Sloan (3), and Lavin (2).

The Turners boys will host Lee this Friday, and then their 2022-'23 season concludes against Hamp-

den Science-East next Wednesday in Chicopee.

## Cheer Squad

The Turners Falls hybrid cheer team, which led cheers for Tech football and Turners basketball, is finally cheering for themselves.

On Sunday, they competed against other cheer squads in Division IV and won the third-place trophy. It wasn't easy, coach Sarah Underwood reports – burst pipes in their work space at Turners meant practice cancellations, and the cheerleaders had to endure late-night workouts just to catch up.

The Leaders, now in their third consecutive season, compete at Waconah Regional this Sunday and in Easthampton on Saturday the 25th.

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Above: Tulip petals, drying in various poses.

## Welsh Food for Saint David's Day

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

**LEVERETT** – The leprechauns now dancing on supermarket displays remind us that Saint Patrick's Day is coming on March 17. But before then there's Saint David's Day, on March 1. It celebrates another Celtic saint: David, the patron saint of Wales, where his day is observed with processions parading the country's fluttering dragon flag – and, of course, by enjoying its national foods.

Wales is the size of Massachusetts, but has only about half the population: 3.14 million, versus our 6.98 million. North Wales has Great Britain's highest mountain outside of Scotland, known as Yr Wyddfa in Welsh, and Snowdon in English. South Wales is one of Britain's historic coal mining and industrial areas. Everywhere there are vivid green valleys watered by frequent rains, and hills roamed by curly-wooled sheep.

This landscape gives Wales its traditional foods: superb lamb and other meats; fat blackberries growing in every summer hedgerow; root vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, and rutabaga – and leeks, one of the symbols of Welsh nationality.

History and legend have it that Saint David ordered the Welsh to wear leeks in their caps to identify themselves when battling the invading English. Today, Welsh regiments still wear leeks on Saint



The national flag of Wales, featuring the "Red Dragon of Cadwaladr."

David's Day, but daffodils – which have similar spear-shaped leaves, and are the national flower – have taken their place in caps and lapels.

Festivals of Welsh food are common on Saint David's Day. The national dish is *cawl* (pronounced COWL), a stew made originally from bacon but now usually from lamb or beef with the iconic leeks, carrots, and potatoes.

Leeks also feature in Anglesey Eggs, a casserole from North Wales made from leeks mixed with mashed potatoes, topped with hard-boiled eggs and covered in a cheese sauce. In South Wales leeks are teamed with breadcrumbs, cheese, eggs, and nutmeg in meatless Glamorgan Sausages. Other favorite vegetables include *laver*, a seaweed gathered on the

south coast and mixed with oatmeal to make a breakfast dish, and onions layered and baked with potatoes in *teisen noniod*, or "onion cake."

Like the other countries of the British Isles, Wales has a strong baking tradition with many regional specialties. *Teisen carawe*, *teisen sinsir*, and meringue-topped *teisen sinamon* are caraway, ginger, and cinnamon cakes respectively. More famous is *bara brith* (pronounced BREETH). Its name, which means "speckled bread," derives from its raisins and currants, which are soaked in tea to give the bread moistness and flavor.

*Bara brith* is a kissing cousin of Irish *barm brack*, and *teisen carawe* belongs to the same

see **WELSH** page B6

## MOVIE REVIEW

### To Leslie (2022, dir. Michael Morris)

By REBECCA TIPPENS

**COLRAIN** – People were astonished and snarky over the Oscar nomination of Andrea Riseborough as Best Actress for her role in *To Leslie*. The *New Yorker* was awful, dissing the film without having seen it! Riseborough plays the forty-something Leslie Rowlands, a character based in part on screenwriter Ryan Binaco's mother, who won a not-insignificant sum in a lottery then shortly squandered the funds, a victim of her alcoholism. This is the story of her struggle to come to terms with her life and addiction.

The film had a pitiful initial distribution, grossing less than \$30,000 when it was released in October. Subsequently director Michael Morris, pissed at the unenthusiastic distributor he had lined up, decided to distribute it himself by calling his friends in the trade who agreed to do home showings. Kate Winslet,



An awards campaign for star Andrea Riseborough has given the film a second chance.

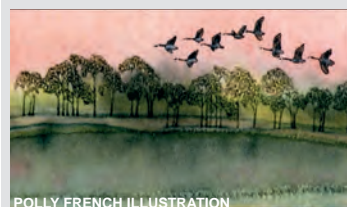
Amy Adams, Jane Fonda, Geena Davis, Sally Field, Liam Neeson, and Edward Norton were but a few of those who called in their friends. People went bonkers over the power of the script and Riseborough's acting, and lobbied to have her nominated for Best Actress.

I am still, a day after watching the film, in thrall with Risebor-

ough's consummate and realistic performance. A part of me wants to rewatch it to more deeply parse her performance, yet I resist, too: my stomach churned after watching it, for the troughs into which Leslie sinks are deep.

Although Leslie faces her alcoholism in the context of her small

see **TO LESLIE** page B4



## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

### PART II: BROKEN PROMISES AT WHITE ASH SWAMP

By DAVID BRULE

**WISSATINNEWAG** – Wissatinnewag extends along the ridgeline that towers over the village of Turners Falls, from the abrupt outcrops over the Factory Hollow curve on Route 2 all the way to Greenfield's Poet Seat Tower and the cliffs at Sachem's Head.

Wissatinnewag was a vast Indigenous village with numerous campsites, continuously inhabited for more than 10,000 years. Tens of generations of Pocumtuck, Nipmuc/k, and Abenaki lived and died there, and are interred there.

Unfortunately for those countless hundreds of Indigenous people buried in this place, they have not been able to rest in peace for the past 80 years. The sprawling cemeteries near the sites of the ancient extended villages are located in sandy deposits left by glacial and geological forces more than 15,000 years ago. In recent times, those well-drained deposits containing thousands of years of burials were exploited and desecrated by sand and gravel operations. Power equipment bit into the graves and exposed human remains, even intact human skeletons.

Small bits of bone and ceremonial burial goods were mixed in with sand from Wissatinnewag and used for fill during the construction of the section of Route 2 that traverses White Ash Swamp in Greenfield.

The human remains that were too large were sorted out and dumped on the southern edge of the swamp.

Historian George H. Nelson signed an affidavit in March 2004 stating that during the 1960s he saw human skeletal remains, skulls, and bones regularly being bulldozed into the swampy area.

With the federal passage of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the desecrations of Indigenous graves ceased. Starting in 2004, the Friends of Wissatinnewag, Inc. (FOW) increased their efforts to protect the re-burials in White Ash Swamp from further desecration as the various commercial and political interests in Greenfield began to propose developing the lands adjacent to that 10-acre parcel.

On May 8, 2006 began a long series of meetings and promises made by the developers Ceruzzi Holdings, LLC, represented by vice-president John Knofla, and by Greenfield mayor Christine Forgey. Those promises to protect the White Ash Swamp were made to members of the Interfaith Council, the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historical Preservation Of-

fice, and members of the FOW.

On May 8, according to FOW member Howard Clark's archives, "An agreement was reached to protect the 10 acres..."

That would have been nice.

But there would be more years of promises and maneuvering to come, exploiting the concept of donating the Swamp to Native American interests. Ceruzzi LLC, now named the Greenfield Property Development, Inc., concocted phrasing meant to mollify the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EEA) to obtain state permits for its future plans for a big box store next to the parcel.

A few examples:

- On October 31, 2006, Ceruzzi sent to MHC their Project Notification form promising "approximately 10 acres of the northerly portion of the site will be donated to the Friends of Wissatinnewag, Inc."

- On November 16, 2006, the MHC stated: "The adjoining 10 acre northern parcel will be donated to the Friends of Wissatinnewag."

- On December 1, 2006, senior preservation planner Rita Walsh, stated to Ceruzzi that "[T]he North parcel is approximately 10.4 acres of land proposed to be donated to FOW."

- On February 5, 2007 the MHC wrote to the EEA that "the adjoining 10 acres will be donated to FOW and it is to remain undisturbed."

- On February 15, 2007 the EEA wrote that "the North parcel is largely wetlands and is undeveloped and may have archaeological significance in relation to a Native American burial ground."

Similar documented public statements were made between 2008 and 2010 about the donation of the cemetery to FOW, Inc., which would merge with the Nolumbeka Project, Inc. on January 29, 2013. No donation was ever finalized, in spite of a string of promises.

By 2011 Ceruzzi Holdings, having purchased the property from Mackin Construction in December 2010, seems to have conveniently abandoned the promise to donate the 10 acres.

A different tactic was attempted instead. Ceruzzi turned to the city of Greenfield, and through its planning board sought a special permit and site plan approval in the process of obtaining a final certificate of occupancy. The planning board acquiesced on the application, in adding "the Proponent shall impose a deed restriction to preserve the open space area identified as Proposed Lot 2."

see **WEST ALONG** page B2



# Pet of the Week



STELLA SILBERT PHOTO / CARMODY COLLAGE

YOUNGPAO / OTOPH / TRBBB / AJJ172

## “TUKY”

As our Pet of the Week, Tuky would like to officially introduce himself to the readers of the *Montague Reporter*, and to wish a happy birthday to his best friend, Millers Falls resident Nat Baldwin.

Tuky, a Turkish Van cat, moved to Millers Falls in September of last year, and has been an active participant in local mouse-chasing initiatives. In his free time, he

enjoys snuggling with his friends Nat and Stella, curling up in his favorite spots around the house, and occasionally wearing a bucket hat! He wants readers to know that he is looking forward to making new friends this year, and to celebrating Nat's birthday on Tuesday!

Want your pet featured? Email a photo and information about your pet to [jae@montaguereporter.org](mailto:jae@montaguereporter.org).

## Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 20 THROUGH 24

### LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

### WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson (978) 544-3758.

### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please call 863-9357.

### Monday 2/20

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Kitchen Club

### Tuesday 2/21

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters  
10 a.m. Money Matters  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 2/22

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Thursday 2/23

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games

### Friday 2/24

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pizza Party  
2 p.m. By The Seat of Your Pants

### ERVING

Open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans' Services are the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

### Monday 2/20

9 a.m. Interval  
10:15 a.m. Seated Workout

### Tuesday 2/21

9 a.m. Good For U  
10 a.m. Line Dancing

### Wednesday 2/22

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact  
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. Bingo

### Thursday 2/23

9 a.m. Core & Balance  
10 a.m. Barre Fusion

### Friday 2/24

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

## WEST ALONG from page B1

On May 20, 2011, the Ceruzzi officials pivoted and wrote to the president of FOW: "...we still need to discuss or decide internally as to whether to create the Conservation Agreement or deed the parcel over to the FOW or the City of Greenfield."

This is the crux of the Ceruzzi bait-and-switch tactic that the founders of FOW and the Nolumbeka Project have long objected to: after a decade of promises to deed over the cemetery, once permits had been obtained from the agencies tasked with oversight, the cemetery would be handed over to the city, instead of to Native American interests.

Thus, in 2011, the city of Greenfield conveniently ignored the decade of promises made to the FOW and their tribal allies to deed over the cemetery.

The current mayor of Greenfield was chair of the planning board at the time. She clearly was not receptive to the idea that the 10-acre burial ground be donated to the Wissatinnewag organization. Rather than requiring Ceruzzi to keep his promise to the FOW and state officials, the planning board required simply that a conservation restriction be placed on the burial grounds.

According to some informed sources, she even had the perfect opportunity to make the donation happen, because Ceruzzi needed the special permit and would have done anything the city asked to get the needed

approvals. Did someone higher-up put pressure on the planning board to change from the "donation" language to the "conservation restriction" language, to avoid giving the land to Native American interests?

As of this writing, Ceruzzi's special permit has lapsed, and the MHC and EEA permissions have expired. But the remains of these ancestors are still here.

The former planning board Chair Wedegartner is now Mayor Wedegartner. The mayor once again has the chance to do the right thing.

We have been asking her to support our efforts to protect the White Ash Swamp burials from further desecration, to afford them protection in perpetuity stewarded over by the Nolumbeka Project and our allied tribal partners.

We have requested that she contact Ceruzzi, LLC to support our demand that the repeated public promises be kept, and that they transfer the deed to this sacred burial grounds to the Nolumbeka Project, Inc.

So now will the mayor of Greenfield, or the city council, do the right thing to afford these ancestors the respect and dignity they were denied in life as well as in death?

We are all in this together. We have been patient long enough. It is now the time for Greenfield to do the right thing.

David Brule is the president of the Nolumbeka Project, Inc.



## Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Happy Valentine's Day! For this month, give yourself the gift of learning with others. If you are over 50, or know someone over 50, then this article is for you.

As we know, our society likes to pretend that older adults are not sexual. This is absolutely fake news, as humans have the ability to experience their sexuality up until death. (And maybe beyond, but who knows?)

As an Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality educator at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence (USNF), I am pleased to announce that we are offering our sexuality education class in-person for adults aged 50 and above. This program is comprehensive and progressive, addressing sexuality with candor, sensitivity, and respect for older adults' wisdom and life experience.

Five different workshops, with two to three facilitators including myself, will be offered on Sundays from noon to 2 p.m. at USNF. While we were able to offer this class via Zoom during the early pandemic, this time around we will be physically together at the building.

You can come for all of the workshops, or just the ones that interest you. For more information and to RSVP please contact Jessica Harwood at [dre@uunorthampton.org](mailto:dre@uunorthampton.org). While these workshops are free to USNF members, donations are requested for non-members, though no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Here are workshop descriptions:

**Attitudes about Aging, February 19:** Participants will have a chance to learn some basic facts about the older population. For instance, by 2030 about 20% of the US population will be 65 or older. The good news is that older adults often report a more satisfying sexual life compared to when they were younger. This workshop explores the factors that contribute to this greater (very unadvertised) satisfaction.

Participants will also have the chance to work on their own "sexuality timeline," which involves

reflecting internally on significant sexual experiences in one's lifetime, as well as learn how to advocate for more positive images for older adults' sexuality.

**Family Matters, March 19:** We will explore what it means to have a sexual life within the context of family relationships. Family members can struggle with the notion that their widowed parents may want to date again and develop new intimate relationships. If these older adults are in prominent grandparent roles, their adult children may worry that time with new partners will infringe upon childcare.

Attendees will learn about boundaries and autonomy, and will have a chance to write a "Loving Will," which provides a guide for those who you have appointed to make decisions for you should you become wholly or partially incapacitated. (I wrote a more detailed article on this in my June 25, 2020 column, available via the *Montague Reporter's* online PDF archive.)

**Body Image, April 16:** We will examine body image, sexual self-esteem, and sexual efficacy. For clarity, body image is what one believes about their own body, including height, shape, weight, functioning, as well as how one feels within their body. Healthy body image is seeing, accepting, and feeling comfortable with your body the way that it is. Self-efficacy refers to the belief that we have not only the ability but the right to shape our own sexual behavior.

This workshop will help attendees increase their sense of self-efficacy, and includes guided imagery and body affirmation exercises.

**Dating as an Older Adult, May 21:** This fun workshop will help attendees identify the type of companion they seek, learn new ways to meet potential dating partners, practice impromptu dating conversations, and write a dating profile draft. There's even an exercise that helps participants learn to better manage awkward conversations, lol.

**Sex Play Beyond the Basics, June 4:** I predict this will be my favorite

workshop to co-facilitate. We will explore how to incorporate sex toys, kink, or BDSM into the bedroom.

This workshop aims to reduce stigma and potential embarrassment about creative sexual expression, as well as to emphasize the importance of safety and consent before, during, and after partnered sexual activity. Participants will have the opportunity to see some sex toys up close, and bust a bunch of myths related to sex toys, kink, and BDSM.

We hope you or the older adults in your life consider joining us for one or all five of these awesome, sex-positive, sex-affirming, reflective workshops for older adults.


In the meanwhile, if in-person workshops aren't your thing, check out local and award-winning sex educator and author Jane Fleishman's latest five-session online course, "Sex After 60: Challenging Ageism One Sexual Pleasure at a Time."

Want to get rid of those tired images of sexless old people? Interested in becoming more hopeful about your sexual life as you age? Fleishman's course, which you can take in the privacy of your own home, looks at self-love, orgasms and sexual pleasure, sex toys, and the joys and challenges of being physical. While this course has a monetary cost (20% off during February), any increased sexual knowledge and empowerment is priceless.

You may also view Fleishman's wonderful TED Talk, "Is it OK for Grandma to Have Sex?," through a link on her website, [www.janefleishman.com](http://www.janefleishman.com). She is the author of a book about same-sex elder couples, *The Stonewall Generation* (Skinner House Books, 2020), which I reviewed in my May 2021 column.

Stephanie Baird, LMHC is an OWL facilitator, EMDR consultant and psychotherapist, certified in *Advancing Clinical Excellence in Sexuality (ACES)*, and encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at [sexmatters@montaguereporter.org](mailto:sexmatters@montaguereporter.org).

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CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328





Montague Community Television News

Planning & Variety

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – On February 4, the Montague town planner hosted the “Five Villages, One Future” workshop at the high school, where they discussed a new comprehensive plan for the town. The hour-long presentation is available to view on the MCTV Vimeo page, and will also be airing on Channel 17.

Four Rivers School hosted their annual Variety Show at the Shea Theater, and the students are as charming and talented as ever. And if you have yet to visit the Smithsonian Exhibition at the Discovery Center, MCTV has a quick view from the opening that you can check out on our website. The Gill and Montague selectboards each had

their meetings this past week, as did the Montague finance committee.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page, so think of what you would like to make and come see how we can help. MCTV is always available to assist in local video production. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact (413) 863-9200 or [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com).

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Artist Profile: Annie Tiberio

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I decided to try my hand at getting a hold of an artist out of the Sawmill River Art Gallery, at 440 Greenfield Road in Montague, for a profile. I succeeded in getting in touch with Annie Tiberio, who has been an artist at the Sawmill for a year. This piece is the first time she has been interviewed by the *Montague Reporter*.

According to her website, Tiberio is “a fine art photographer living in Amherst, Massachusetts. Her background and training in science support her passion for photography and from this combination she creates images that reveal what she feels about the natural world. She exhibits her work in galleries and museums across the country.

“Annie has been focusing her camera on all corners of Vermont since moving there in 2005. Her award-winning photos have been published in two editions of the best selling Sierra Club book, *Mother Earth – Through the Eyes of Women Photographers and Writers*, as well as numerous other publications.”

Her photographs’ subjects include animals in Africa such as elephants, lions, and zebras, and many taken in different landscapes such as Greece, Costa Rica, and one out of Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado. That is called “Dunes Abstract.”

Tiberio told me, in connection with the many publications her photos have been in, that the most popular one is the *Mother Earth* book. She has also done slide shows of some of her photographs to show to people, including ones that involve her travels to Tanzania and Kenya, and wilderness camping trips titled *Death Valley, Okefinokee, and Beyond*.

She said she doesn’t have a favorite one of the 60 to 75 slide-show presentations she has put together. “I like doing all of them equally,” she said. “I like to share places I

have been that I find special and interesting, especially for people who can’t go there themselves.”

The shows are tailored to many different groups, according to her website. Two of the many types of groups she presents to are spiritual groups and lecture groups. “I change the slide show before each group,” she told me.

Tiberio also has been a teacher to her name. She taught in Longmeadow for eight years, and she has a couple of places where her teaching is ongoing: the Firehouse

Center for the Arts in Burlington, Vermont and Family Nature Summits.

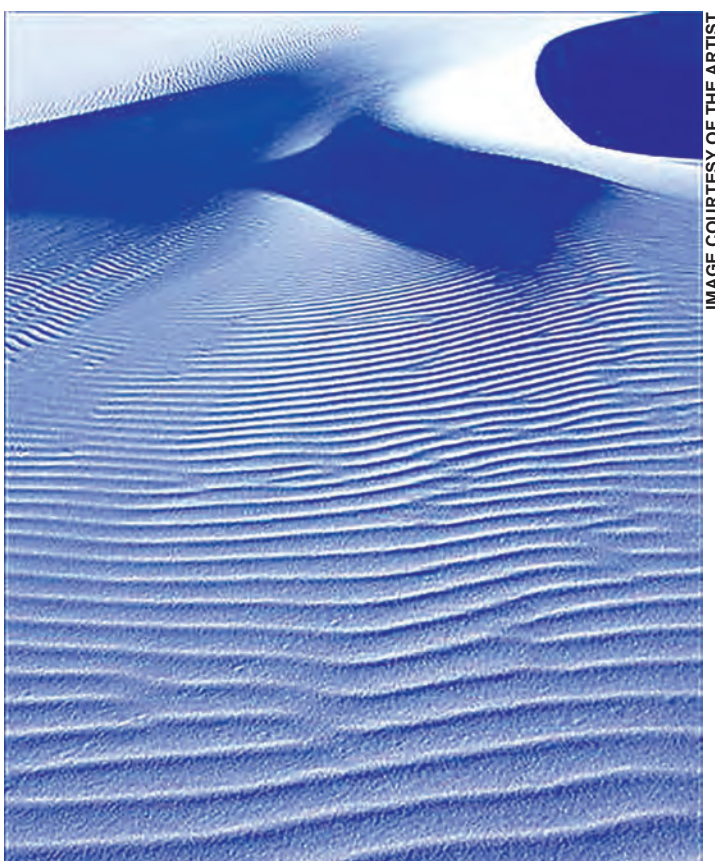
She pointed out about teaching at the Firehouse that “I still teach at the summit every summer, and have been doing that for half of my life.” Some of the courses that she has taught are Wildflower Photography and Introduction to Digital Photographic Concepts.

She said her favorite one to teach is Digital Photography for a non-art major. “It brought people from not knowing anything about digital photography into places where they could use the fundamentals to create beautiful pictures,” she told me. “That was particularly rewarding for me... I taught that course every semester and sometimes summer, for ten years.”

People’s opinion about anyone’s photos varies. “I ask people to look at my photo and tell me what they like about them, or what they don’t like,” she said. Besides Sawmill Arts, another local gallery that has also shown her work is the Burnett Gallery in Amherst – twice, she said, for one month each time.

She also told me about a new endeavor. “I’m learning a new art form called encaustics,” she said. “It’s an ancient painting with wax, and I incorporate my photos into the paintings.”

We can see this at the Sawmill, with six pieces at the gallery for the first time, and online at her website, [www.annietiberio.com](http://www.annietiberio.com).



Dunes Abstract, from the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Driving 101; Creepy Landlord; Three Poles Struck; Evictions; Not Blood But Strawberry Jam; Dialing 911

**Monday, 2/6**

10:57 a.m. School resource officer requesting assistance with a motor vehicle lockout for a school employee at Turners Falls High School. Services rendered.

12:02 p.m. Caller advising of injured dog on the side of Greenfield Road. Animal control officer notified, but then the caller called back and said the owner came and picked up the dog.

12:15 p.m. Walk-in reporting ongoing neighbor dispute on Ross Avenue over loud music. Advised of options.

3:48 p.m. Caller from Edward Avenue states that the female who was just evicted from his property by the police stole a carton of cigarettes. Officer attempted call back; phone number goes to female’s voicemail.

9:55 p.m. Caller from the Turners Falls municipal airport states they just had a little trespassing issue, and would like an officer to take a report. Parties were checking out the hangars.

**Tuesday, 2/7**

8:02 a.m. 911 abandoned

call; number comes back to a Randall Road address. Received a call from Greenfield; they have gotten two 911 hang-up calls from the same number. GPD called back stating they spoke with a male, who stated his kid was playing with the phone. Neighbor states male just left to bring kid to school; nobody home.

1:10 p.m. Caller states that a white Chevy pickup truck just went by the speed sign on Millers Falls Road at 101. Officers checked area; no such vehicle found.

3:01 p.m. 911 abandoned call from Crocker Avenue. Misdial confirmed. Officer advises drain at the school is blocked by snow and unable to drain due to ice. Call left for DPW.

3:04 p.m. Caller states his landlord is recording him; has noticed it multiple times and now does not feel safe. Officer advised; he will contact the caller to discuss. Caller called in again stating he is putting off his son’s nap time until an officer contacts him. Officer advised caller of options.

6:44 p.m. 911 call; commercial fire alarm on Avenue A.

Transferred to Shelburne Control. Shelburne Control advises FD entering through bar area in case of burglar alarm call.

8:32 p.m. Officer requesting DPW be contacted due to slippery road conditions in Turners Falls. DPW foreman made aware.

**Wednesday, 2/8**

7:50 a.m. 911 caller advising that they slid off North Leverett Road and hit a telephone pole. Vehicle is damaged; operator is OK. DPW notified of road conditions and will be responding to treat the road. Report taken.

12:12 p.m. 911 static line call received from Sheffield Elementary School, possibly from a landline in the back of the building. Appears to be a phone problem. School resource officer advised along with school department’s facilities manager.

5:59 p.m. Walk-in requesting assistance from fire department; his gas line was disconnected today, and now there is an odor. Shelburne Control contacted.

11:06 p.m. Shelburne Control advises female party called from Third Street looking for an ambulance and then was being bothered by a female party looking for money, claiming she was from New Jersey. Shelburne Control advises this made the female party uncomfortable. PD requested to scene. Officer checked area; unable to locate anyone matching description.

**Thursday, 2/9**

8:14 a.m. Single-vehicle accident on North Leverett Road; no injuries reported. Eversource pole struck. No visible damage to pole. Eversource contacted. Rau’s contacted for tow. Report taken.

12:13 p.m. Caller heard a male yelling and a female crying and saying “stop” as they walked by an apartment. Male and female arguing due to a recent death in the family. Nothing physical reported.

12:35 p.m. ACO picked up a cat from Davis Street and transported it to Dakin.

3:11 p.m. Shelburne Control wondering if K9 unit was available to assist with a search in Deerfield as someone believes their house was broken into. Services rendered.

5:49 p.m. Caller states her neighbors are fighting outside in the back courtyard; officers were at the location earlier today. Officer spoke to parties, who are having a hard time due to a death in the family but are working out their issues. Denials of anything physical. Declines any services at this time.

11:51 p.m. E-911 abandoned call. Attempted call-back several times; no answer. Mapping in area of Old Northfield Road. Officer advises he is out in the area with a vehicle parked in the woods near the location of the call; spoke to party who advised she accidentally dialed 911. No further issues.

1:18 a.m. Caller from Between the Uprights advises she heard some arguing a few moments ago and upon going outside and checking, she noticed some broken glass and blood. Caller states she does not see anyone in the area but requests area be checked. Officer advises no broken glass; what was thought to be blood was/is strawberry jam. No issues.

10:57 a.m. Montague Housing Authority and sheriff’s office found narcotics in a Davis Street apartment while doing an eviction. Narcotics picked up by officer. Report taken.

6:14 p.m. Gill PD officer requesting assistance for a vehicle stop on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. MPD officer responding.

8:27 p.m. Caller reporting suspicious vehicle near Montague City and Turnpike Roads; asked driver if he was OK; driver seemed to be under the influence. Referred to officers. Spoke with male party. No signs of impairment. States he was playing a game on his phone. Will move along.

**Saturday, 2/11**

12:13 a.m. Caller from I Street states that it sounds like kids have been jumping around upstairs for the last 3 or 4 hours; would like officer to tell them to quiet down. Officer spoke to tenants upstairs. Trying to calm children down for bed.

11:50 a.m. Caller reports offensive vandalism on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge along the bike path. Investigated.

1:56 p.m. Walk-in reports receiving text messages with violent threats from an unknown phone number. Advised of options.

8:22 p.m. Greenfield transferred call from alarm company; employee locked inside Food City. Alarm for front door. Keyholder meeting officer. Employee out of building. Keyholder locking building.

**Sunday, 2/12**

11:16 a.m. Caller reports that some kids are riding a motorcycle up and down Park Street at a high rate of speed. Motorcycle located parked outside owner’s residence. Owner advised of plate status and of complaint. Owner agreed to put motorcycle back in garage.

5:29 p.m. 911 report of car vs. tree on Seventh Street near J Street. Responding officer requesting Rau’s for tow and Eversource for pole that was struck.

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**TO LESLIE** from page B1

rural hometown where everyone has an opinion on her history, this is also an everyman's story, portraying the journey any one of us may face in overcoming our own demons, addictions, and foibles.

This is a story told with great empathy, social awareness, and sensitivity, without a drop of sentimentality or gratuity. Those involved reported an extraordinary chemistry amongst those who worked on the film.

In an interview with the *Hollywood Reporter*, Riseborough said: "We were shooting on film, and that gave us all sorts of different constraints. We knew we didn't have too many takes, and there was a sense of total commitment from every crew member, every cast member, in order to be able to realize the film."

It is as if they had a common eye as to how they wanted to tell the story, beginning with the writer, the director, the director of photography (Larkin Seiple, who was also the cinematographer for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*), and those who worked on sound and music.

Not to mention that the acting, beyond Riseborough's, is all top-notch, with brilliant ensemble work. Leslie's sister-in-law Nancy, played by the Oscar-winning Allison Janney, is glorious in her ferocity with Leslie for having abandoned her 13-year-old son. Her attitude is a counterpoint to the new motel manager in town who, not knowing her plight, simply sees a person in need and reaches out.

The lighting in the film is largely dim, echoing not only Leslie's depths, but the atmosphere in the bars she frequents. After she has made strides in overcoming her addiction, brightness is brought to the screen. But the film, thankfully, does not try to emphasize the emotion of any particular scene through its score: that work is left to the actors.

One scene plays over again in my mind's eye. Leslie is sitting at a bar by herself when a country song playing in the background so resonates that she feels it was written specifically for her. I have been there. Her reaction is to collapse on the counter in a sunken remorse, which brought similar recognition to mind.

Indeed, I do not remember a film where the lead has evoked such an empathetic connection in me. I felt at any given moment that I could have been her, as I empathized with her emotionally, even though I have never personally had to deal with alcoholism.

In a January 11 interview with *GoldDerby.com*, Riseborough said, "We can all identify with disappointing the ones we love, feeling the shame of that, and then coping with it in a way that's not necessarily healthy."

The brilliance of the decision to give us close-ups of Leslie's face processing her reactions to situations, or overheard conversations that oblige her to reflect on her life, contribute to the forward agency of the story in a deeply intimate and powerful way.

It feels like a gift to be given the image of a consciousness being touched, leading to what you hope is a deeper self-awareness; you cross your fingers as you read the emotions on her face. That subtlety – her energy, her naturalism, her ability to elicit sympathy for one who is swimming in the pits, as it were – is one of

the reasons that there has been a grassroots movement to honor Riseborough and give honor to the power of the craft.

The film also enhances the empathy that we experience in the consummate performance of Marc Maron as the motel manager Sweeney, who comes into the story with a previous understanding of how alcoholism can be a disease. His supportive personality brings us a welcome model for a warm, sympathetic, caregiving male.

Heart wins over sadness, and the acting across the board is beyond amazing. And it is an honor to have a story on the screen that is fully of the working class – and not just of people working themselves out of it.

Leslie's story is ours. It would be lovely to have both a story of the people, and Riseborough's craft, honored at the Oscars.

To Leslie is currently available to rent and purchase on a range of platforms, including Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV+, YouTube and Google Play.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT & WENDELL JOINT POLICE LOGS**

**Policing Two Towns: Medical Emergencies; Alarms; Chimney Fires; Downed Power Lines; Suspicion**

**Sunday, 1/1**

1:19 a.m. Assisted with lockout, Davis Turn Road, Wendell.

7:53 p.m. Report of vandalism, Long Plain Road, Leverett.

**Monday, 1/2**

10:29 a.m. Report of vandalism, North Leverett Road, Leverett.

1:12 p.m. Investigation at Leverett Elementary School.

1:50 p.m. Medical emergency, Broad Hill Road, Leverett.

3:09 p.m. Report of vandalism, North Leverett Road, Leverett.

4:26 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. Vandalism, North Leverett Road.

8:45 p.m. Suspicious vehicle on Montague Road, Leverett.

**Tuesday, 1/3**

1:26 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, Cider Hill Road, Leverett. No injuries.

2:26 p.m. Welfare check, Bear Mountain Road, Wendell.

**Wednesday, 1/4**

8:38 p.m. Medical emergency, Lead Mine Road, Leverett.

9:20 p.m. Power outage, Depot Road, Leverett.

**Friday, 1/6**

10:13 a.m. Medical emergency, Dudleyville Road, Leverett.

4:18 p.m. Assisted citizen, Leverett Elementary School.

7:45 p.m. Traffic hazard, Jennison Road, Wendell.

**Saturday, 1/7**

5:17 p.m. Disabled vehicle, Lockes Village Road, Wendell.

**Sunday, 1/8**

9:54 a.m. Medical emergency, Long Plain Road, Leverett. Sick female.

**Monday, 1/9**

9:54 a.m. Medical emergency, Broad Hill Road, Leverett. An 83-year-old fell down stairs.

**Tuesday, 1/10**

7:38 a.m. Threat, Farley Road, Wendell.

1:37 p.m. Assisted citizen, Teawaddle Hill Road, Leverett.

**Wednesday, 1/11**

6:47 p.m. Medical emergency, Long Plain Road, Leverett. Fire department on scene. Party refused treatment.

6:51 p.m. Assisted other agency, Farley Road, Wendell.

7:36 p.m. Search, Farley Road, Wendell.

**Thursday, 1/12**

4:47 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, New Salem Road, Wendell. No injuries.

**Friday, 1/13**

7:54 a.m. Car vs. deer, Lockes Village Road, Wendell.

1:12 p.m. Welfare check, Gate Lane, Wendell.

5:27 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint, Shutesbury Road, Leverett.

**Saturday, 1/14**

4:28 p.m. Medical emergency, Morse Village Road, Wendell.

**Sunday, 1/15**

2:19 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on Jennison Road, Wendell.

7:11 p.m. Burglar alarm, Juggler Meadow Road, Leverett.

**Monday, 1/16**

10:08 a.m. Traffic hazard, Shutesbury Road, Leverett.

**Wednesday, 1/18**

9:55 a.m. Report of harassment, Teawaddle Hill Road, Leverett.

**Friday, 1/20**

12:02 a.m. Traffic hazard, Montague Road, Wendell.

9:17 a.m. Medical emergency, Long Hill Road, Leverett.

4:31 p.m. Illegal dumping, Shutesbury Road, Leverett.

**Saturday, 1/21**

4:49 p.m. Report of harassment, Teawaddle Hill Road, Leverett.

6:54 p.m. Assisted Leverett fire department and Amherst ambulance with medical emergency.

**Sunday, 1/22**

11:17 a.m. Assisted citizen, Leverett Elementary.

3:47 p.m. Fire, Morse Village Road, Wendell.

**Monday, 1/23**

12:36 a.m. Disabled vehicle, Morse Village and Davis Turn roads, Wendell.

7:16 a.m. First of seven calls for lines down in Wendell.

8:24 a.m. Assisted citizen, North Leverett Baptist Church.

9:52 a.m. First of nine calls for traffic or safety hazards in Wendell and Leverett.

**Tuesday, 1/24**

12:02 a.m. Line down, New Salem and Morse Village roads, Wendell.

5:50 a.m. Traffic hazard, Hemenway Road, Leverett.

11:06 a.m. Line down, Farley and Mormon Hollow roads, Wendell.

2:43 p.m. Traffic hazard, Long Plain and Jackson Hill roads, Leverett.

Road, Leverett.

**Wednesday, 1/25**

7:12 a.m. Burglar alarm, Rattlesnake Gutter Road, Leverett.

2:35 p.m. EMS LifeLine activated, New Salem Road, Wendell.

11:40 p.m. Animal complaint, North Leverett Road and Hannabrooke Drive.

**Thursday, 1/26**

1:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, Wendell Depot Road, Wendell. No injuries.

3:16 p.m. Water rescue, Depot Road, Leverett.

8:09 p.m. Chimney fire, Cave Hill Road, Leverett.

**Friday, 1/27**

7:51 a.m. Motor vehicle accident with injury, Wendell Depot Road, Wendell.

12:12 p.m. Animal complaint, West Street, Wendell.

12:16 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, Juggler Meadow Road, Leverett. No injuries.

2:20 p.m. Fraud/scam reported, Leverett Elementary School.

2:22 p.m. Chimney fire, Old Long Plain Road, Leverett.

**Saturday, 1/28**

6:30 p.m. Assisted citizen, Leverett Elementary.

**Monday, 1/30**

11:14 p.m. Suspicious vehicle, Long Plain Road, Leverett.

**Tuesday, 1/31**

8:10 a.m. Motor vehicle accident, New Salem Road, Wendell. No injuries.

2:47 p.m. Animal complaint, North Leverett Road, Leverett.

10:55 p.m. Animal complaint, Shutesbury Road, Leverett.



**EXHIBITS**

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, Smithsonian on Main Street exhibit. Through March 18.

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Montague at Work and Play: Illustrations from the Montague Reporter, 2019-2023*, fifty-two full-color illustrations by Nina Rossi of people at work and play in the villages of Montague. Through March 18. Reception this Sunday, February 19 at 4 p.m.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center:** *Small Works Show*, invitational exhibit of small wall art. Through February.

**Montague Center Library:** *Photographs by Joey Parzych*. Local scenes taken by Parzych, a Gill photojournalist. Through March 18.

**Artspace, Greenfield:** *Teen Art Show*. Franklin County high-schoolers show their best work. Through February 23. Reception this Friday, February 17, at 5:30 p.m.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Admin Reveal*, collection of works by Looky Here manager Hannah Brookman. Reception next Friday, February 24, from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Greenfield:** *Another Way to Experience Winter*, mixed-media work by Malaika Ross. Through March 17.

**Wendell Free Library:** *Loop by Loop*, traditional and contemporary rug hooking by members of the Quabbin Rug Hookers Guild and the Rug Social of Brattleboro. Through February.

**Von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield Academy:** *Looking Glass*,

Rachel Portesi's hair portraits. Collodion tintypes, Polaroids, ViewMaster 3D, and video exploring female identity in portraits that display hair in sculptural forms. Through March 1.

**Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *All You Need is Love*, members' show. Through February.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Student Art Brings Literature to Life*, Franklin County students' show. Weekends through February 19.

**Sunderland Library:** *Spring Eternal*, mixed-media abstract landscape paintings by Sara Gately. Through February 28.

**Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst:** *Portraits in Red: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls*, paintings by Nayana LaFond. Through May 12.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Showing the Unseen*, members' group show.

**Hope and Feathers Gallery, Amherst:** *Jules Jones*, collage paintings. Through February 25.

**Anchor House of Artists, Northampton:** *Luke Jaeger*, kinetic sculpture and animation; *Matty Hollander*, chaos and pattern; *Vincent Frano*, plaques and banners. Through February.

**Oxbow Gallery, Easthampton:** *Roads.Rivers.Clouds.Structures*, new paintings by Turners Falls artist Karen Evans; *The Maelstrom*, ceramic figures by Harriet Diamond. Through February.

**Brattleboro Museum and Art Center:** *Keith Haring: Subway Drawings*. Eighteen works from NYC subway stations. Through April 16. Reception this Saturday, February 18, at 5 p.m.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

Nova Arts, Keene: *Cecilia Zabala, Alton Lathrop, Zara Bode*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Zach Nugent, Dead Set*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *King Buffalo, Swell Fellas*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jenny Burtis*. Free. 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

Hitchcock Brewing Co., Bernardston: *The Bromantics*. Free. 6 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Ben Ware*. Free. 8 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Center, Matt Weston, Liz Durette*. \$ 7 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Scott Savoy*. Free. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Rave in Aquarius* feat. DJs *vlnrble, witch.wav, j-ski*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Upstairs District, Daniel Blair, My Friend Tony, DJ Number 7*. \$ 8 p.m.

The O's Music Bar, Sunderland: *Wildcat O'Halloran*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Chris Goudreau, Hedgewitch, Hollow Deck*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

Hitchcock Brewing Co., Bernardston: *Rosie Porter and the Neon Moons*. Free. 6 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Pamela Means*. \$ 7 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *No Joke*. Free. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Elias & Dan*. \$ 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Crash Test Dummies, Carleton Stone*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Matt Emmer & Friends, Helen Hummel, Kitchen Scissors*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

JJ's Tavern, Florence: *The Prozacs, The Manipulators, Slob Drop, Fear the Masses, Green Street Fiends*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Whiskey City*. \$ 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Bourbon Street Blasters, Zydeco Connection*. \$ 8 p.m.

The O's Music Bar, Sunderland: *Ruby Lou*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Of Earth and Soul presents *Life/Death/Life*. \$ At 3 and 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *John Gorka, Patty Larkin, Cliff Eber-*

*hardt, Lucy Kaplansky*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tysk Tysk Task, Barbarian Thieves, Once Were Kings, Nercralant*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Lexi Weege and JJ Slater Big Band*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Singer-songwriter night*. 8:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Barry Jive* EP release; karaoke. \$ 6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Singer-songwriter night*. Free. 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Two-Step Night* with *Les Taiouts, The Honky Tonk Angels*. Dance lesson, country karaoke. \$ 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Lush Honey*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

Brick House, Turners Falls: Screening, *Revolution Selfie*, with discussion with director afterward. Free. 6:30 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *HyFy*. Free. 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Club D'Elf*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene NH: *Florist, Footings*. \$ 7 p.m.

Next Stage Arts, Putney VT: *Duke Robillard Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Quiet Houses* record release, with *Mark Schwaber*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *She Said, Katie Clarke & Larry LeBlanc*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Ch-Chunk*. Free. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Horse Jumper of Love, They Are Gutting A Body Of Water, Computerwife, Robber Robber, Pet Fox*. \$ 6 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Bad Trips, Nazi Coffins, belltonesuicide, Hissquiet*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Goth Girl Field Trip IV* feat. *imissmydeadfriends*, DJs *Cullen, Madel, Fetus Slayer, moms-deadmac*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Johnny Cash Birthday* feat. *Josh Levangie, Wild Bill & the Flying Sparks*. Free. 8 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Kassa Overall*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Suitcase Junket*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*Matt Emmer, Ch/Chunk*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Screening, *The Conformist* (1970). \$ 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2**

The Drake, Amherst: *Duke Robillard Trio*. \$ 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 3-5**

Northampton, eight venues: *Back Porch Fest* feat. *Watchhouse, Molly Tuttle, Cedric Burnside, Sunny War*, many more. See [backporchfest.com](http://backporchfest.com).

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tony Vacca*. \$ 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Talk, Recovering Indigenous Histories Along the Kwinitekw* with Margaret Bruchac. Free. 4 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Groove Prophet*. Free. 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Chris Goudreau, Aaron Noble & the Clones*, more. \$ 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, MARCH 6**

Tree House Theater, South Deerfield: *Josh Ritter*. \$ 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9**

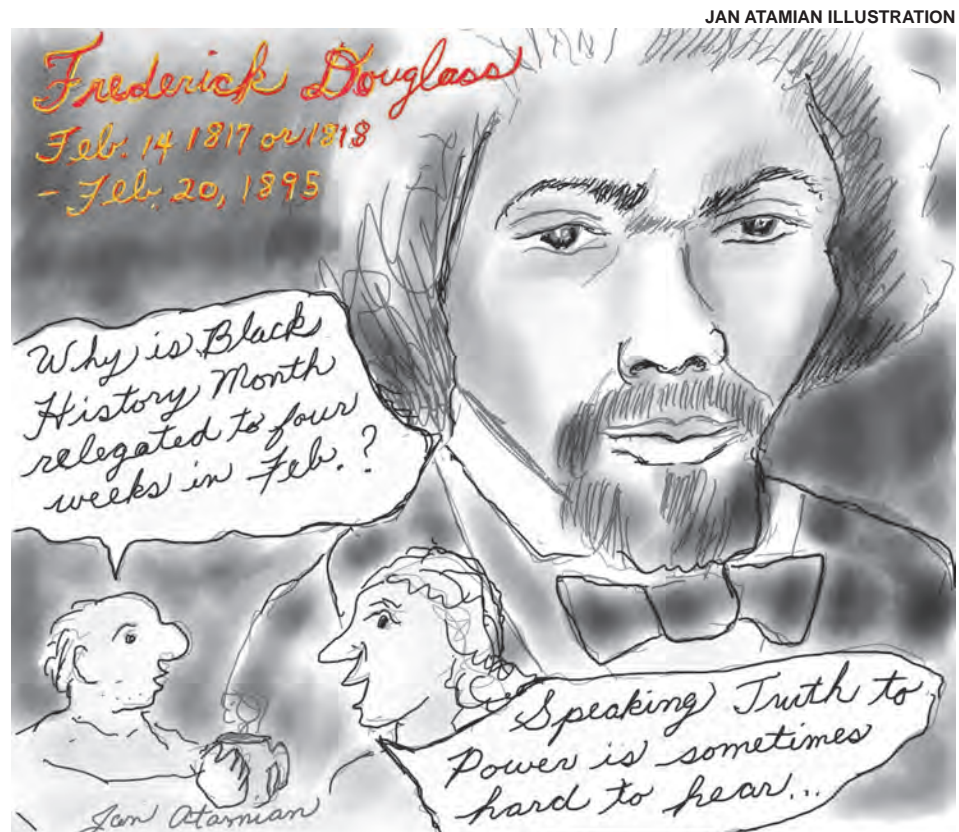
Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Suzanne Ciani*. \$ 8 p.m.



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**WELSH** from page B1  
family as English seed cake. Other Welsh dishes also have relatives in Ireland and England. But some are uniquely Welsh.

Among tea-time (or breakfast) treats are Welsh cakes called *pic*

*ar y maen*, which means “cakes on the stone” because originally they were made on a bakestone over an open fire. Now a cast iron or other pancake pan does the job. The ingredients are flour, butter or lard, sugar, currants or raisins, and most

importantly mace or nutmeg, which infuses them with their haunting and characteristic flavor.

Welsh cakes are homely, as is *stwnsh* (pronounced STUNSH), a primrose-colored mixture of roughly equal parts rutabaga and potatoes mashed together. It’s likely to appear with the favorite Welsh Sunday lunch of roast lamb or beef followed by baked rice pudding.

On the other hand, Salt Duck is definitely luxurious. It is made by rubbing a duck with plentiful salt twice a day for three to four days. Finally the salt is washed away and the duck is placed in a dutch oven and covered with water. Sometimes this is set in a larger pan of water. While it slowly bakes the water absorbs the salt and drains out the fat, so the duck emerges lean, tender, and utterly delicious, hot or cold.

Of all these Welsh dishes, undoubtedly the most famous is Welsh Rarebit – *caws pobi* in Welsh. In its simplest form this is melted cheese on toast. My Welsh grandfather’s way of making it was to place slices of Cheddar or Cheshire cheese on an enamel plate and set it before the coal fire until it just melted, then slip it onto toast, also made on the fire. This can be reproduced by broiling the cheese and toasting the bread in a toaster.

Another richer version is made by slowly melting the cheese with a little milk on the stovetop. When it melts, beaten egg is stirred in, then the thickened mixture is seasoned with pepper, and served on toast, perhaps with a broiled or sliced tomato.

Evening on Saint David’s may see any of these dishes on family or restaurant menus in Wales. Essentially most Welsh fare is hearty food relying on local ingredients rather than elaborate techniques – just the thing to enjoy after a day spent parading the red-and-green Welsh dragon flag and sporting the bright daffodils, already blooming in the country’s early spring.



# WELSH RAREBIT

The Welsh fondness for *caws pobi* – cheese on toast – became a stereotype in Tudor England, when many Welshmen flocked to the court of the Welsh family on the throne. One tale claimed that God wanted no more Welsh people in heaven, so Saint Peter yelled “Cause Bobby,” and they all ran out of pearly gates to go get their favorite down-home food.

In her book on Welsh food, *First Catch Your Peacock*, Bobbie Freeman notes that the acid soil of Wales means that the milk is best suited for making soft cheeses, so for centuries the Welsh traded for hard cheeses with two big English cheesemaking areas on their borders: Cheshire and Cheddars. Cheshire is hard to find here, but any extra-sharp Cheddar is perfect for this recipe.



CLAIRE HOPLEY PHOTOS

In its simplest form, says the author, Welsh Rarebit is melted cheese on toast.

- 5 or 6 oz. extra sharp Cheddar cheese, sliced
- ¼ cup milk, about
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 thick slices bread or English muffins, toasted and kept warm
- pepper for seasoning
- parsley for garnish (optional)

eggs. Increase the heat slightly and keep stirring until the mixture thickens.

Dollop over the toast and serve immediately dusted with pepper, preferably white but black is all right. Garnish with parsley if you want. Broiled halved tomatoes or a couple of tomato slices are nice with this.

Enough for two or three servings.

In a saucepan over low heat, melt the cheese with the milk. When it has just melted, stir in the

# WELSH CAKES

These are always small – about two inches across – and best eaten hot from the pan or warmed up in the oven. In *The Observer’s Guide to British Cookery*, Jane Grigson notes “The spice and short texture of Welsh Cakes, almost a sandiness on the teeth, are quite unlike anything else.”

They are very simple, too, and can be made in a food processor if you like. Kids can help mix and cut them.



These little cakes are best eaten hot from the pan.

- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ¾ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. nutmeg or mace
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 stick butter, cut into bits
- ½ cup raisins or currants
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 to 3 Tbsp. milk, as needed
- butter and sugar for serving

into a pastry-like dough, adding milk a little at a time if necessary to achieve this.

Roll out on a lightly floured board to one-third-inch thick. Cut into two-inch rounds with a cookie cutter or jar lid.

Lightly grease a griddle pan or pancake pan, and heat it over a medium burner. When hot add the Welsh cakes, keeping them an inch apart. Cook for about three minutes, or until golden on each side. Serve with a sprinkling of sugar.

Makes 20 to 24.

In a large bowl, mix the flour, baking powder, and nutmeg or mace. Rub in the butter bits. Stir in the sugar and raisins, then make a well in the middle and stir in the egg. Pull the mixture together

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